ANNUAL REPORT

WESTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

2008

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008

DEDICATION

MICHELLE AND PAUL NEVINS, JR.

This year's Annual Town Report is dedicated to Michelle and Paul Nevins, Jr., better known as Mikki and Buddy. They have served our town well for more than two decades on various boards and committees.

Mikki was first appointed to the Elementary School Committee in 1989, and was elected for two terms thereafter, serving until 1996. While on the School Committee, she served many years as Secretary and also as Hampshire Municipal Advisory Committee representative. She was appointed to the Building Committee for the new elementary school in 1989 and served on the 225th Anniversary Committee in 2003.

Buddy was elected to the Finance Committee in 1985 and served until 1991. In 1988 he was appointed to the Computer Committee, created to bring Westhampton government into the 20th century. He was elected to the Board of Assessors in 1989 and was largely responsible for getting town assessment records computerized, a huge task. Buddy declined to run when his term was up in 2007 but graciously served one more year when no one stepped forward to run. That's a lot of years to serve in a position that wins no popularity contests!

You can know that volunteerism is alive and well in Westhampton when you have couples like this who make that extra effort for their community. Thank you, Buddy and Mikki!

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

In 2008, the Selectboard spent time working with every department in dealing with a wide range of town issues. We are thankful that Westhampton has a tradition of good working relationships between departments and the Selectboard. All of our departments are operated by dedicated individuals who contribute far beyond what is required of them to enable our town function, and the Selectboard appreciates their commitment to the town.

The year began with Charles (Karl) P. Norris (chairman), Brian Mulvehill (clerk), and James Huston serving as Selectboard members. John Shaw was elected to serve in June, when Karl decided not to run for another term in office. The Board would like to thank Karl for his six years of service on the Board. Following the election the Board reorganized, with Brian Mulvehill filling the chairman's role and John Shaw serving as clerk. Margaret (Margie) Parsons continued to serve as administrative assistant to the Selectboard. The Board appreciates Margie's long standing, invaluable service to the Board and the town.

Highway Department

The Highway Department applied for an extension of the STRAP grant that funded work on Hathaway Road. The town received that extension and completed the work that began last year. The Highway Department also reprogrammed its radios to enhance communication with the Westhampton Volunteer Fire Department. This benefits all residents, as both departments will be better equipped to serve the town should an emergency arise. Highway Foreman Peter Montague retired from the Highway Department in May 2008. The Selectboard would like to thank him for his 12-plus years of service. Along with Highway Superintendent David Blakesley, the Selectboard conducted interviews for the open foreman position, and subsequently hired William (Bill) Jablonski, who contributes strong experience from

similar work in other towns. David Blakesley was also appointed by the Selectboard as the trench permitting authority for the town, in compliance with new trench safety requirements.

One of the issues that continued to require the Selectboard's attention throughout the year was the South Road construction project. The road portion of the South Road project was completed in the fall; David Blakesley tirelessly represented the interests of the town in the face of much bureaucracy. At this writing, the two bridges on South Road remain incomplete as the Massachusetts Highway Department and Warner Brothers Construction wrangle over responsibility related to engineering of the unfinished bridge work. The Selectboard and the Highway Department have been frustrated by the continued delays, and both understand how this has inconvenienced town residents. The Selectboard and several town residents have been in contact with Representatives Kocot and Olver, and the hope is that a resolution about the two bridges is forthcoming.

The Highway Department and the Fire Department worked together during the December ice storm to assure town residents' needs were addressed. Members of the Fire Department went door-to-door, visiting each home affected by the storm and ensuring homes without power had heat, phone service, and transportation. The Highway Department worked diligently to make Westhampton's roads accessible, and this spring, they continue the work of clearing downed trees along the sides of the roads. The town applied for and received reimbursement funds from FEMA/MEMA for damage related to this storm. The Selectboard commends all of the town departments and individual employees who contributed to the safety of the town and its citizens during this emergency.

The town applied for and received $29,869 in Homeland Security funds. This grant was used to purchase a generator for the Highway Department building. Highway Superintendent David Blakesley and Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Chris Norris worked together to gather information and prepare

the application. On behalf of the town, we would like to congratulate and thank Chris and David for the time and effort they committed to this grant.

The Selectboard would like to thank Highway Superintendent David Blakesley and members of his department for their willingness to assist the town with the numerous jobs that fall outside their road maintenance and repair responsibilities. Shoveling and sanding the walkways when other snow removal services were not available, making repairs at Town Hall and the library, and accompanying Deputy Fire Chief Steve Holt at night to assess a potential flood situation are just a few of the ways David and his department went above and beyond this year to help keep the town operating safely and efficiently.

Fire Department

Three new members joined the Fire Department in the past year: Alan Loud, Ben Snape, and Jon Long. These important additions of new volunteer firefighters bring the department to a total of 32 members. This progress speaks very highly of the department's dedication and expertise – many area towns have fewer than half this many volunteers in their departments. Fire Chief Chris Norris applied for Federal fire grants in an effort to secure funds for new safety gear and a tanker truck. As a result, the town received $68,000 for the turnout gear, extractors, and gear hangers. The town was required to contribute $3,800 as part of the grant process. The Selectboard congratulates Chris and the entire Fire Department for their effort in preparing this significant grant. Two Westhampton emergency medical technicians, Lee Douchkoff and Fire Chief Chris Norris, were honored at the county's EMT banquet in May 2008. The Selectboard offers its congratulations to both men and appreciates service and time given by all of the volunteer firefighters and EMTs who serve the town so well. The Selectboard also was pleased to appoint Ben Snape as a new EMT in September. The Board signed the Hazardous Mitigation Plan put forth by Fire Chief Chris Norris,

which makes the town eligible for Federal reimbursement in case of an incident. Chief Norris requested that an additional sidewalk be installed at Westhampton Elementary School in response to safety concerns related to efficiency of evacuating the building in case of emergency. The Fire Department worked with the Highway Department; both departments donated time and resources to complete this project and make the elementary school safer. The Selectboard would also like to offer its appreciation to the local businesses that donated materials to aid in the completion of this project.

Police Department

Police Chief David White continued to add to the professionalism of the town's Police Department. In 2008, the Police Department modernized the FID (firearms registration) process by installing a LEAPS terminal. This computer software was provided by the Commonwealth and allows the department to communicate information regarding registrations, driver's licenses, and vehicle information. Also, this same system streamlines our License to Carry permit process by funneling the applicant's information directly to the State Police Firearms Division. This system finally brings us in line with the majority of other police departments in the region as it pertains to firearms licensing. Matt Malo and Mark Shlosser joined the department as officers this year. The Selectboard welcomes both officers, and notes that Mark has been helpful in assisting the department with investigations. The Selectboard has been pleased to build the department with additional experienced officers who complement the work being done so effectively by Chief David White and Sergeant Floyd Fisher. The Police Department also worked with Hampshire Regional High School to solve the rash of alarms that were sounding during inclement weather.

Town Library Project

The Library Building Committee and the Selectboard worked together to achieve the transfer of the Parsonage building from

the Friends of the Westhampton Memorial Library to the town. This was the latest accomplishment of years of work by the Library Building Committee, the library staff, and the Friends of the Westhampton Memorial Library, and it was another step toward establishing a new town library on the Parsonage property.

In other business...

The Selectboard continued its relationship with the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, which partnered with Westhampton on the planning and construction of a handicap-accessible bathroom for the Town Hall. This has been a requirement since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed into law in 1991. The Selectboard appointed an Advisory Committee of Gary Hickey, Elizabeth Anderson, Freeman Scott, and Margie Parsons to oversee this project. The architectural work has been completed and work is scheduled to begin in 2009.

Carrying on the tradition of honoring Westhampton's oldest resident, the Selectboard was honored to present the gold cane to Jessie Cole of Main Road. The person honored must have been a town resident for at least 25 years.

The Board would like to recognize Pat Miller, who applied for and received a grant to present a narrative musical program for the 2009 Memorial Day ceremony.

The Board appointed a Capital Planning Committee; the group convened for the first time in late 2008. Members include Pat Miller, Maureen Dempsey, Chris Norris, Priscilla Flynn (replacing Lisa Kennedy as Finance Committee representative), and Brian Mulvehill (representing the Selectboard). The Capital Planning Committee's charge is to develop a multi-year plan for capital improvements and update it yearly. This plan will be used to identify estimated costs and potential funding for each capital project proposal. The Committee has sent out questionnaires to

each department to begin an assessment of the town's Capital needs.

The Open Space Committee met with the Selectboard to discuss potential updates to the Open Space Plan. These updates would make the town eligible for certain grant opportunities. The groups decided the Open Space Committee would review the plan, noting accomplishments and discussing new goals.

The Selectboard worked with Veterans Agent Bob Messier to update and add to the Veterans Memorial in the town center (see cover). A new stone was delivered last summer, the monument was rearranged, and landscaping was completed. Thanks to Josh Hickey and the Highway Department for their valuable assistance. This has been an ongoing project for a few years, and we were pleased to see its successful completion. It certainly adds to the town center, and we are pleased to honor some of our current and former neighbors in this way.

The Cemetery Committee hired Joseph Vishaway to replace Edward Fisher, who resigned this year as caretaker of the cemetery. Unfortunately, Joseph needed to resign over the winter. As of this writing the Cemetery Committee is again interviewing candidates for the position. This year the Cemetery Committee and the Selectboard agreed to allow Warner Brothers Construction to use a portion of the new cemetery land during construction of the South Road project in exchange for leveling out and grading this property.

The Selectboard solicited bids for removal of one of the surplus cemetery sheds; Carl Prucnal placed the highest bid and removed the building in March 2009.

The Selectboard retained Attorney Steve Samolewicz in addition to longtime town counsel Kopelman & Paige. This addition is a benefit to the town, as there now is a local attorney who can be responsive to our local concerns.

Finally, the Selectboard would like to thank everyone who takes the time to serve the Town of Westhampton in any way. The business of running a town is only accomplished by the service and dedication of many dedicated residents. The Selectboard appreciates the assistance, effort, and input of all the citizens who have contributed to the town's life this year. The Selectboard meets on alternate Mondays at 7:00 at Town Hall. All meeting are open to the public; the Board welcomes your suggestions and feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Mulvehill, Chairman
John Shaw, Clerk
James Huston

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2008 as follows:

BIRTHS 8 5 Male 3 Female

DEATHS 6

January 5, 2008	William Francis Fortier
June 2, 2008	Mahlon K. Parsons
August 1, 2008	Arthur Kermit Clark
August 5, 2008	Archie F. Ducharme, III
October 27, 2008	Bernice Harriet Greenberg
December 24, 2008	John Charko

MARRIAGES 1

October 24, 2008	Brandon Edward Nevins to Kate Rosaly Vilbon

DOG LICENSES FOR 2008:

5	Males	@8	$ 40.00
55	Neutered Males	@4	$220.00
2	Females	@8	$ 16.00
66	Spayed Females	@4	$264.00
65	Kennels<4	@15	$ 90.00
1	Kennels<10	@25	$ 25.00
2	Kennels>10	@50	$100.00
137	Total Fees Collected		$755.00

Town Fees	from Dog Licenses	128@ $.75	$ 96.00
Town Fees	from Kennels	9@ $.75	$ 6.75
Total	Town Fees Collected		$102.75

HUNTING/FISHING/LICENSES/STAMPS

1	Fishing Licenses	$27.50
0	Fishing License (Minor)	$00.00
0	Fishing License (65-69)	$00.00
3	Fishing License (>70)	$00.00
0	Hunting License	$00.00
2	Hunting/Sporting License	$ 90.00
1	Hunting/Sporting License (65-69)	$25.00
2	Hunting/Sporting License (>70)	$00.00
2	Archery Stamps	$10.20
0	Primitive Firearms Stamp	$00.00
1	Duck Stamp	$ 5.00
12	Total License/Stamps Sold/Issued	$157.70
	Town Fees Collected	$ 2.45

TOWN CLERK FEES

13	Birth Certificates	$ 65.00
2	Marriage Certificates	$ 10.00
18	Death Certificates	$ 90.00
1	Marriage Intentions	$ 20.00
2	Burial Permits	$ 40.00
4	Business Certificates	$80.00
	Town Clerk Fees Collected	$305.00

TOWN FEES

4	Zoning By-law Booklets	$ 60.00
1	Postage to mail By-laws	$ 2.00
	Total Fees Collected	$ 62.00

7 House Numbers Issued for 2008

POPULATION (2008 CENSUS) 1791

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	1292
DEMOCRATS	240
REPUBLICANS	141
WORKING FAMILIES	2
GREEN RAINBOW	5
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS	2
UNENROLLED	902

2008 proved to be another exciting year for Town Clerks around the Commonwealth. Massachusetts enacted legislation that changed the Presidential Primary from March 4, 2008 to February 5, 2008 in an effort to join many other states for Super Primary Tuesday. A State Primary was held on September 16, 2008 followed by the historical State/Presidential Election on November 4, 2008 in which Democratic candidate Barack Obama defeated Republican candidate John McCain. As with most of MA, Obama carried Westhampton with 681 votes to 414 for McCain. Westhampton's active voter turnout was 88%, one of the highest in both county and state turnouts. Four days prior to the election, the State issued partial ballots - orange colored ballots - that allowed residents who had moved from one MA town to another in the past 6 to 18 months due to the mortgage crisis, but had not registered to vote in that new town, to vote for the offices of President/Vice President and Senator in Congress.

Several Special Town meetings were held throughout the year as well as the Annual Town Meeting on May 10, 2008. A new town bylaw was added that established a trench permitting authority in response to a new law passed by the legislature.

A reminder that census forms are mailed yearly to all residents of Westhampton. These are very important and it is every resident's/tenant's responsibility to complete and return the form to the Town Clerk. Currently, it is a State law that all persons be included in the resident list of their city or town and the State imposes the penalty of removal from the voters list on anyone failing to complete and return the census.

Dog licenses are available in March for the current year. All dogs six months and older must be licensed by June 30, 2009. A current rabies certificate is required. Any person whose dog is not licensed after June 30, 2009 is subject to fines and penalties. A rabies clinic is may be sponsored by the Board of Health in April or May. Notices of any clinics to be held in town will be posted at the Transfer Station.

The TOWN CLERK holds office hours on most MONDAY evenings from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Services provided include copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, voter registration, business licenses, special permit/variance applications and the issuance of house numbers for new construction. Notary service is also available. The current month's calendar indicating meeting dates and times for Town Boards is posted on the Town Clerk's door as well as the bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Town Clerk

I have reviewed the Town Clerk's records and find this report to be thorough and accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
AS OF JUNE 30, 2008

	Real Estate Balances June 30, 2008	Personal Property Balances June 30, 2008	Motor Vehicle Balances June 30, 2008
2008	$103,984.00	$2,621.00	$19,519.00
2007	$63,449.00	-$1,202.00	$4,304.00
2006	$8,808.00	$489.00	$3,861.00
2005	$2,104.00	$419.00	$1,365.00
Prior Years	$17,529.00	$13,329.00	$9,561.00
TOTAL	$195,874.00	$18,060.00	$38,610.00

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

1st quarter - August 1
2nd quarter - November 1
3rd quarter - February 1
4th quarter - May 1

To keep postage to a minimum, only two mailings will continue with two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

I have reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, have checked the figures with the Assessors' commitment sheets and abatement approvals, have compared all receipts with the turn-over sheets to the Treasurer, and have met with Laura after completing my audit. To the best of my knowledge, this report is correct as submitted.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2007	$536,598.39
Receipts	$4,998,854.02
Disbursements	5,003,100.63
Balance June 30, 2008	$532,351.78

Bank Western Massachusetts Checking	1,788.20
Bank Western Massachusetts Money Market	90,450.36
Easthampton Savings Capital CD	3,982.18
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	2,076.77
Easthampton Savings Sweep	18,856.94
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	9,905.57
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	2,147.78
MMDT General	183,082.47
MMDT Cultural Council	4,173.41
MMDT Septic Grant	66,830.54
Bank Western Massachusetts Septic	1,165.62
Unibank	62,944.24
Unibank Online Collection	7,120.15
MMDT Charity Trust	3,415.56
MMDT Cemetery Trust	3,737.44
MMDT Veterans Trust	2,767.47
MMDT Library Trust	34,896.44
MMDT Stabilization Fund	33,010.64

Balance June 30, 2008	$532,351.78

Interest earned - $28,591.15.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER
JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

Cash on Hand July 1, 2007		
General	**462,124.07**	
Stabilization	**31,594.15**	
Trust Funds	**42,880.17**	
		536,598.39
	RECEIPTS	
TAXES		
Property	3016163.76	
Farm Animal Excise	1679.19	
In Lieu of Taxes	18529.52	
Motor Vehicle Excise	191924.75	3228297.22
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		
Local Aid/Lottery		
Exemptions	12159.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	392663.00	
Vocational Transportation	26424.00	
Charter School	9408.00	
Library Aid	3983.47	
Medicaid	15066.53	640030.00
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	574.09	
COA – Federal	1756.25	
COA – State	3300.00	
Concert Gifts	700.00	
Cultural Council	4000.00	
Historical Gift	3200.00	
FEMA Storm Aid	68622.76	
NIMS Compliance	1800.00	
Fire Gift	450.00	
Federal Fire Grant	61520.00	

HazMat	1914.00	
Planning Board Consultants	3844.00	
Police Grants		11299.00
Library Gifts		3271.75
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	674.00	
Board of Assessors	17.00	
Plumbing Fees	1585.00	
Electrical Fees	2790.00	
Sanitation Fees	530.00	
Building Permits	14816.75	
Planning Board	100.00	
Board of Appeals	250.00	
Library	110.00	
Mark & Clear	720.00	
Town Clerk Fees	504.50	
HCOG Electricity Refund	635.13	
Medicare D Payment	3120.97	
Miscellaneous/refunds	677.20	26530.55
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	2970.00	
Gun Permits	1250.00	
Reports	30.00	4250.00
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	1700.00	
Septic Design	1300.00	
Perc Tests	1450.00	
Title V	1350.00	
Transfer Station Fees	42993.60	48793.60
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Fire Dept.Revolving Fund	2625.00	
Septic Repayment	3055.09	5680.09

SCHOOL FUNDS		
Early Literacy	12500.00	
REAPS grant	44049.00	
Kindergarten Grant	17363.21	
94-412 Grant	30550.00	
Preschool	120287.14	
Building Use	1650.00	
School Lunch	24016.77	
Misc.	1503.43	251919.55
HIGHWAY		
Miscellaneous	4255.45	
Chapter 90	117031.04	
STRAP Grant	161769.14	283055.63
INTEREST		
On General Fund	22951.03	
On Taxes	10552.28	
On Charity Funds	160.88	
On Cemetery Funds	164.27	
On Library Trust	927.99	
On Veterans Trust	78.85	
On Stabilization	1416.49	
On Septic Grant	2758.58	
On Cultural Council	133.06	39143.43
TRUST		
Veterans Memorial Gifts		2515.00
AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	603.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	152.50	
Tax Collector Fees	5160.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	2902.00	
Meals Tax	26.80	
Gun Permits	5550.00	
Police Outside Detail	14129.81	
Refund		

Payroll Deductions	273327.48	302387.10
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**4998854.02**

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	12723.42	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2138.69	14862.11
AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	603.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	153.60	
Tax Collector Fees		
Meals Tax	26.80	
Gun Permits	3750.00	
Police Detail	13949.00	
Payroll Deductions	272943.98	296906.88
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Early Literacy	11117.09	
REAPS grant	31439.88	
94-142 Grant	18301.40	
Kindergarten Grant		
Preschool		
Building Use	2098.50	
School Lunch	23747.45	
Summer Art	163.14	182651.78
SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Cultural Council	2770.00	
Concert Gifts	700.00	
Council on Aging Federal	1665.79	
Council on Aging State	3307.03	
NIMS Compliance	2290.14	

Fire Dept. Revolving	1500.00	
Fire Gift	450.00	
Fire Grants	61520.00	
Hazmat	5114.10	
Highway Funds	439694.90	
Library Gifts	2036.75	
April Nor'easter	4453.44	
Library Grant/Match	30.21	
State Aid to Library	2749.89	
Planning Bd.	3844.00	
Police Grants	4053.67	536179.92
STATE ASSESSMENTS		
School Choice	24958.00	
Charter School	30210.00	
Cherry Sheet	1907.20	57075.20
TRUST		
Veterans Trust	1488.00	
Cemetery Trust	815.27	2303.27
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		1089979.16
ACCRUALS		92878.67
APPROPRIATION		3820242.80
EXPENDITURES		
See Appropriation Report for Detail		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**5003100.63**
Cash on Hand June 30, 2008		
General	**454524.23**	
Stabilization	**33010.64**	
Trust Funds	**44816.91**	
		532351.78

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 2008

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/2007	APPROPRIATION	TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F2009
MODERATOR	0.00	250.00		250.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3500.00		3500.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	0.00	3600.00	1000.00			
Travel/Dues incl Inspector Exp.				1259.00		
Town Report				1341.99		
Town Hall sub				30.00		
Medicaid billing				646.95		
Supplies/advertising				823.09		
				4101.03	498.97	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	0.00	14391.00		14391.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	250.00		250.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	10085.00		10085.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	2050.00				
Software Support				1642.00		
Supplies/computer				82.00		
Dues/Travel				184.00		
				1908.00	142.00	
ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	7300.00		7300.00	0.00	
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	1550.00		1550.00	0.00	

ASSESSOR ASSISTANT		**16000.00**		**4633.44**	**11366.56**	
ASSESSORS EXPENSE		**8250.00**	**0.00**			
Dues/Travel				**410.40**		
Reval Assistance				**4250.00**		
Registry of Deeds				**538.50**		
Consortium				**1800.00**		
Postage				**32.80**		
Supplies/Forms				**184.85**		
				7216.55	**1033.45**	
TREASURER SALARY		**10085.00**		**10085.00**	**0.00**	
TREASURER EXPENSE	**0.00**	**4050.00**	**1700.00**			
Software Support				**1462.00**		
Bank Charges				**503.52**		
Dues/travel				**70.00**		
Postage				**716.80**		
Supplies/equipment				**772.80**		
Tax Title Expense				**1679.10**		
				5204.22	**373.15**	**172.63**
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE		**8998.00**				
Postage/envelopes				**963.81**		
Supplies				**557.05**		
Tax Bills				**708.12**		
Software Support				**4982.00**		
Dues/Travel				**55.00**		
Drop Box				**1354.00**		
				8619.98	**378.02**	
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	**0.00**	**7420.00**		**7420.00**	**0.00**	

COUNSEL FEES	**0.00**	**10000.00**	**-500.00**	**5335.49**	**4164.51**
TOWN CLERK SALARY	**0.00**	**6562.00**		**6562.00**	**0.00**
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	**0.00**	**3300.00**	**350.00**		
Election Officers/Police				**1124.25**	
Supplies/Printing				**2434.46**	
Dues/Travel				**85.00**	
				3643.71	**6.29**
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	**0.00**	**50.00**		**50.00**	**0.00**
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	**0.00**	**265.00**		**0.00**	**265.00**
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	**0.00**	**200.00**		**61.27**	**138.73**
ZONING BOARD EXPENSE		**650.00**		**171.82**	**478.18**
TOWN OFFICES		**11770.00**			
Custodian				**2180.00**	
Electricity				**1981.34**	
Telephone				**1014.75**	
Comcast				**660.00**	
Copier				**144.00**	
Lawns				**1142.40**	
Heating oil				**3468.54**	
Repairs/Improvements				**219.11**	
Supplies				**280.65**	
				11090.79	**679.21**

TOWN HALL REPAIRS	**7796.11**			**6700.00**		**1096.11**
POLICE DEPARTMENT		**43603.00**	**1443.00**			
Police Chief				**18963.00**		
Sergeant				**8713.25**		
Officers/court				**2726.75**		
Mileage				**68.51**		
Officer Equipment				**4512.50**		
WMLEC				**250.00**		
Dues/training				**270.00**		
Office/computer maintenance				**757.72**		
Cruiser Maintenance				**1613.26**		
Telephone/pagers				**925.67**		
Antennae				**400.00**		
Regional Lockup				**1443.00**		
IMC Computer Service				**1200.00**		
				41843.66	**3202.34**	
POLICE VEHICLE		**36000.00**		**33415.70**	**2584.30**	
FIRE CHIEF		**6000.00**		**6000.00**	**0.00**	
FIRE DEPARTMENT		**15750.00**	**5245.00**	**20966.17**	**28.83**	
SAFETY COMPLEX		**17420.00**	**-2000.00**			
Oil				**3809.59**		
Utilities				**3140.84**		
Burner Service				**0.00**		
Misc Repair & Maint.				**8467.00**		
				15417.43	**2.57**	

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES		**7480.00**				
Ambulance				**5000.00**		
Training				**1367.00**		
				6367.00	**1113.00**	
INSPECTOR SALARY	**0.00**	**13200.00**				
Wiring Inspector				**2120.00**		
Plumbing Inspector				**880.00**		
Sanitation Inspector				**580.00**		
Building Inspector				**6000.00**		
Sub				**270.00**		
				9850.00	**3350.00**	
BUILDING INSPECTOR EXP		**500.00**				
Forms				**172.25**		
Travel				**180.00**		
				352.25	**147.75**	
TREE WARDEN EXPENSE		**2000.00**		**2000.00**	**0.00**	
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY	**0.00**	**780.00**		**780.00**	**0.00**	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		**1100553.00**		**1043377.30**	**391.90**	**56783.80**
See Elementary Report						
VOCATIONAL TUITION	**0.00**	**206000.00**	**-63308.55**	**129884.78**	**12806.67**	
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		**40950.00**		**36855.00**	**4095.00**	
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	**0.00**	**1022189.00**		**1022187.00**	**2.00**	
HRHS DEBT		**82325.00**	**-1233.00**	**81092.00**	**0.00**	

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION		**4360.00**				
Uniforms				**1753.67**		
Shoe Allowance				**398.99**		
Telephone				**737.77**		
Hydraulic licenses				**240.00**		
HCOG fees/travel				**482.70**		
Office supplies				**424.85**		
				4037.98	**322.02**	
HIGHWAY SALARIES	**0.00**	**171500.00**		**166445.01**	**5054.99**	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	**0.00**	**61125.00**		**59047.94**	**1875.66**	**201.40**
SNOW REMOVAL	**0.00**	**50000.00**	**63308.55**			
Sand				**24562.54**		
Salt				**66342.07**		
Liquid calcium				**915.68**		
Overtime				**13466.47**		
Parts				**8021.79**		
				113308.55	**0.00**	
ROAD MACHINERY	**0.00**	**23100.00**	**-2500.00**			
Repairs/Parts/Supplies				**19090.88**	**1509.12**	
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS		**19500.00**				
Fire alarm monitoring				**225.00**		
Electricity				**6374.31**		
Heating oil				**8612.40**		
Burner service				**491.95**		
Misc.(glass, locks,electrician)				**2244.43**		
Comcast				**720.00**		
				18668.09	**831.91**	

ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	0.00	27650.00	4500.00	31982.58	167.42
VETERANS		300.00		287.35	12.65
VETERANS AGENT SALARY		1254.00		1254.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY		100.00			100.00
CULTURAL COUNCIL		75.00		60.00	15.00
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY					
Stipend		3550.00		1200.00	
Perc tests/Title V				1160.00	
				2360.00	1190.00
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE		69315.00	3514.00		
Landfill Attendant				6881.14	
Hauling				21364.34	
Tipping Fees				22700.50	
Transfer station utilities				963.63	
Electronics				1605.12	
Used paint program				1254.26	
Tire Collection				205.00	
HH waste				799.68	
Landfill montoring fees				10000.00	
Permit/Stickers				903.00	
Misc Transfer Station supplies/exp*				3639.99	
BOH Supplies/misc/training				901.52	
Transfer station telephone				180.00	
Office help/consulting fees				154.50	
Field Service				1030.00	
* includes installation of railings				72582.68	246.32

HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.	**4979.00**		**4978.10**	**0.90**
CEMETERY SALARY	**4957.00**		**4957.00**	**0.00**
DOG OFFICER	**250.00**		**202.89**	**47.11**
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	**600.00**		**600.00**	**0.00**
LIBRARY	**65691.00**			
Salaries			**46374.26**	
Utilities/services			**2789.05**	
Lawns			**374.90**	
Books, supplies,etc			**14612.94**	
Heating Oil			**1539.85**	
			65691.00	**0.00**
DEBT AND INTEREST				
LANDFILL CAPPING LOAN	**50000.00**		**50000.00**	**0.00**
HIGHWAY GARAGE/FIRETRUCK	**105000.00**		**105000.00**	**0.00**
HIGHWAY TRUCK	**26000.00**		**26000.00**	**0.00**
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT	**65250.00**		**65250.00**	**0.00**
INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT	**2070.00**	**9.98**	**2079.98**	**0.00**
UNCLASSIFIED				
INSURANCE & BONDS	**59000.00**		**56362.84**	**2637.16**

COUNCIL ON AGING		1100.00		1100.00	0.00	
HISTORICAL		200.00		158.69	41.31	
COUNTY RETIREMENT		95978.00		95978.00	0.00	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS		2028.00		2027.76	0.24	
UNEMPLOYMENT		12800.00	-8759.00		4041.00	
GROUP INSURANCE		275000.00		266927.13	8072.87	
MEDICARE		18500.00		14286.76	4213.24	
RESERVE FUND		5000.00				
To Police Account			1443.00			
To Treasurer Expense			1700.00			
To Interest on Short Term Debt			9.98			
To Town Clerk Expense			350.00			
To Selectboard Expense			500.00			
			4002.98		997.02	
	7796.11	3951558.00	-2233.00	3820242.80	78624.37	58253.94

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A Parsons
Accounting Officer

BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2008

GENERAL FUND

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Pooled Cash		325117.35	Accrued Payrolls Payable	56783.80	
Receivables:			Def Rev Property Taxes	162647.19	
Personal Property	18060.49		Deferred Revenue Tax Liens	4940.82	
Real Estate Tax	202174.30		Deferred Revenue MVE	37309.98	
Tax Titles	4940.82		Deferred Revenue Farm Excise	607.71	
Motor Vehicle Excise	37309.98		Deferred Rev In Lieu of	9284.54	
Farm Animal Excise	607.71		Deferred Revenue Forest Prod.	52.80	
In Lieu of Taxes	9284.54				
Classified Forest Tax	52.80				
Allowance for Abatements	-57587.60				
Subtotal Taxes		214843.04	Subtotal Liabilities		271626.84
			FUND BALANCE		
			Reserve for Encumbrances	374.03	
			Reserve for Expenditures	64285.28	
			Undesignated Fund Balance	203674.24	
			Subtotal Fund Balance		268333.55
Total Assets		539960.39	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		539960.39

SCHOOL FUNDS

ASSETS		LIABILITIES		
Pooled Cash	55164.05	Accrued Payroll Payable		7638.17
		FUND BALANCE		
		Summer Art	-112.14	
		School Lunch	-49.75	
		School Building Use	6575.18	
		Preschool Program	29040.53	
		Kindergarten Enhancement	1.16	
		94-412 Grant	632.26	
		REAPS Grant	10853.05	
		School Gifts	585.59	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		47525.88
Total Assets	55164.05	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		55164.05

HIGHWAY FUNDS

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Due from Commonwealth	332006.90	Pooled Cash		206233.41
		STRAP Grant	3643.45	
		Chapter 122	122130.04	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		125773.49
Total Assets	332006.90	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		332006.90

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	92337.80	Cultural Council	4173.41	
		Concert Gifts	127.00	
		225 Celebration	4914.60	
		Historical Gift	3200.00	
		Fire Dept Revolving	1125.00	
		Water Gift	604.70	
		Town Hall Gifts	14.70	
		Highway Gift	50.00	
		Tree Gift	34.68	
		Haz Mat	-1914.00	
		Septic Repair	67996.16	
		Cemetery Gift	1084.65	
		Library Gift	8298.67	
		Library Music	325.86	
		Library Averill	2010.19	
		Conservation Grant	292.18	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		92337.80
Total Assets	92337.80	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		92337.80

RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	114705.70	Sale of Town Property	106000	
		County Dog Refund	579.03	
		Wetlands Conservation	8126.67	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		114705.70
Total Assets	114705.70	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		114705.70

STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	53576.02	Community Policing	7245.33	
		Fema Nor'easter #2	28810.26	
		Public Health Grant	1670.41	
		COA Federal	44.72	
		Library Grant Match	10318.61	
		State Aid to Library	3931.57	
		Public Libraries Fund	441.35	
		NIMS Compliance	1113.77	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		53576.02
Total Assets	53576.02	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		53576.02

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	3970.32	Town Hall Repairs	1096.11	
		Highway Building	2874.21	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		3970.32
Total Assets	3970.32	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		3970.32

NON-EXPENDIBLE TRUST

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	7153.00	Street & Wright	2400.54	
		Thayer	1015.01	
		Cemetery	3737.45	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		7153.00
Total Assets	7153.00	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		7153.00

EXPENDIBLE TRUST

ASSETS		FUND BALANCE		
Pooled Cash	74085.06	Veterans	2817.47	
		Street & Wright	2327.16	
		Thayer	580.82	
		Cemetery	476.43	
		Library Anonymous	34896.44	
		Stabilization	32986.74	
		Subtotal Fund Balance		74085.06
Total Assets	74085.06	Total Liabilities/Fund Balance		74085.06

DEBT

ASSETS		LIABILITIES		
Amounts to be provided BANS	26000.00	Highway Truck	26000.00	
Amounts to be provided bonds	1380000.00	Landfill Capping	50000.00	
		Highway Garage/Firetruck	1330000.00	
		Subtotal Liabilities		1406000.00
Total Assets	1406000.00	Total Liabilities		1406000.00

Town of Westhampton
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds
June 30,2008

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	Totals
Assets						
Cash	$ 325,117	$ 109,551	$ 3,970	$ 93,714	$ -	$ 532,352
Investments	-	-	-		-	-
Taxes Receivable:						
Real property	202,174					202,174
Personal property	18,060					18,060
Other Taxes	9,946					9,946
Tax liens	4,941					4,941
						-
	235,121	-	-	-	-	235,121
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	57,588	-	-	-	-	57,588
	177,533	-	-	-	-	177,533
Other Receivables:						
Motor vehicle and other excise	37,310					37,310
Commonwealth of Massachusetts		206,233				206,233
	37,310	206,233	-	-	-	243,543
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	1,406,000	1,406,000
Total Assets	$ 539,960	$ 315,784	$ 3,970	$ 93,714	$ 1,406,000	$ 2,359,428
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable		$ 7,638			$ -	$ 7,638
Deferred revenue -Property	162,647					162,647
Deferred revenue - Other Taxes	9,946					9,946
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	4,941					4,941
Deferred revenue - MVE	37,310					37,310
Long-term debt					1,406,000	1,406,000
Total Liabilities	214,844	7,638	-	-	1,406,000	1,628,482
Fund Balances:						
Reserved:						
Encumbrances	57,157					57,157
Expenditures	64,285					64,285
Unreserved:						
Designated		308,146	3,970	93,714		405,830
Undesignated	203,674					203,674
Total Fund Balances	325,116	308,146	3,970	93,714	-	730,946
Total Liabilities and Fund Bala	$ 539,960	$ 315,784	$ 3,970	$ 93,714	$ 1,406,000	$ 2,359,428

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2008 the Board of Assessors recorded 59 property transfers and approved the placing of 5 additional parcels under the protection of Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B. Also, the Board approved a total of 31 personal exemptions for Veterans, elderly, blind persons or surviving spouses.

Westhampton's assessed values for FY2009 are

Real Estate - $230,451,673
Personal Property - $4,258,175
Exempt - $22,948,100

The tax rate was set in December of 2008 at $13.98 per $1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board wished to thank Priscilla (Pat) Miller for her many years of service to the Town of Westhampton as an Assessor. Pat's term ended in June and she chose not to run again after serving 23 years as an Assessor. Pat graciously accepted a one year appointment to the Board when the position went unfilled.

Dolores Thornhill was elected to fill the third position on the Board.

Assessor business can be transacted Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and the Board of Assessors meets Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. We can be reached at 527-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Priscilla Miller
Dolores Thornhill

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2008 members of the finance committee and their respective terms were:

Owen Bowman	2008
David Brown	2008
Lee Craig	2008 (appointed in March 2008)
Lisa Kennedy	2008
Priscilla Flynn	2009
Ellice Gonzalez	2009
Margaret Parsons	2009
Karle Stefansson	2009
Stacey Jenkins	2010
Mark Thornhill	2010

At the town election in June 2008, Lisa Kennedy and Lee Craig were reelected to the Finance Committee and Maryanne Duggan was elected; their terms will expire in 2011. The entire committee would like to thank David Brown for his many years of service, both as a member and then chairman, to the Finance Committee.

The budget process began in late winter with each of the town departments and services completing their budget requests for the 2009 fiscal year. The Finance Committee met separately with each department to discuss their budget requests and then to deliberate on those requests and how best to close the $234,498 gap between the total of the requests and projected revenues. The goal of the committee was, wherever practical, to limit increases to only 2 ½% over the previous year.

After much discussion, the Finance Committee voted to send a proposed budget of $4,342,507 to the Selectboard for their consideration. This represented an increase of $305,784 or 7.6% over the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, but a decrease of $102,972 or 2.3% of the original department budget requests.

To achieve a balanced budget recommendation for Town Meeting, the Finance Committee recommended funding a new pickup truck for the highway department contingent upon approval of a Capital Exclusion ballot question. In addition, the committee also voted to recommend increases for both Hampshire Regional School and the Westhampton Elementary School be contingent upon Proposition 2.5 Overrides.

For Fiscal Year 2008, the Finance Committee approved the following transfers for:

Firefighter's Assistance Grant match for $5,245
Regional Lockup expense for $1,443
Treasurer Tax Title work for $1,700
Health Agent salary for $414
Board of Health Transfer Station safety rail for $3,100

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Flynn, Chair

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

In light of the economy and the extreme slow down in the building and real estate market, the Planning Board reviewed and approved just a few building lots and building permit applications this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Your Zoning Board enjoyed a much slower pace of activity in 2008. The board members were Leo Aloisi as chairperson, Richard W. Tracy as clerk, Wayne Parks, John Kelsey, Suzanne Wolf, and David Shelton. In the fall we accepted the resignation of David from the board with regret. David has been an active and valued member and we thank him for all his contributions. We have room for up to eight members on the board and would encourage those interested to indicate their interest to the Selectboard for appointment.

We met each month on the second Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. We answered peoples questions, signed off on building permit applications, and tried to keep up with new laws and regulations. There were no public hearings for special permits or variances in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2007-2008 gave us a fair amount of snow with around 17 plowable storms. A total of $113,305.55 was spent on snow removal, far above the $60,000 appropriated.

On May 19, 2008, Peter Montague retired from the Highway Department after 12 plus years of faithful service. Peter was always willing to do whatever needed to be done. He was always supportive and a fun person to work with. He will be missed.

Peter's position was advertised and William Jablonski was hired. Bill comes to us with lots of experience in this line of work. We look forward to a long term relationship with Bill.

Annual Town Meeting voted to purchase a new pickup for the department. The new truck was delivered and put into service in late December 2008.

At a Special Town Meeting October 27, 2008, it was voted to purchase a new snow plow for the Department. The new plow was delivered in November 2008 and is in service.

In the spring, all hard surface roads were swept. During the summer, all catch basins were cleaned as needed.

With assistance from Fire Chief Chris Norris, the Highway Department was able to secure a grant from Federal Fiscal Year 2006 unobligated National Incident Management System funds. The grant was used to purchase and install a backup generator at the Highway Garage. Total grant amount was $29,869.

Our hazardous tree removal work continued this year. Each year, the tree warden, an arborist from WMECO, and I survey the town and prioritize a list of tree that are considered dangerous. WMECO assists us by hiring a tree company to work with us on the tricky ones. This year, a total of 67+ were removed. Also brush was burned on lower Lyman Road and various other locations during burning season.

STRAP – Small Town Road Assistance Project:

In mid May, the top coat of hot mix was put down on Hathaway Road. Also, a 40 car gravel parking area was constructed at the back entrance to the Elementary School property. Signage was installed and lines painted. This completes the STRAP grant project. I only wish we could get funding for more of these types of projects!!

Beavers continue to cause problems on Lyman Road, Rte 66 and Northwest Road.

Other projects completed by the Department:

Catch basins were repaired on Northwest Road, Southampton Road, North Road, Chesterfield Road, and Rte. 66. New planks were installed on the Tob Road Bridge. A pipe railing system was installed at the transfer station. Short sections of Easthampton, North, Chesterfield and Montague Roads were shimmed with hot mix to fill in the worst wheel ruts. Using both brush mowers, ours and the shared one, the entire town roadsides were mowed.

Easthampton Road from Stage Road to Haines bridge, 1750 ft., and Chesterfield Road from the Chesterfield town line to the top of Sand Hill, 2300 ft., were both reclaimed and paved with a binder course of hot mix asphalt.

A new sidewalk was constructed at the Elementary School.

South Road Project:
In May 2008, the South Road reconstruction project began. The first step was to construct the wetlands replication area. During the planning stages of this project, Karl and Lisa Norris gave the Town all the necessary easements to construct the replication area on their property located off Burt Road. Without this generation donation, this project would have been stalled again.

The road work itself, for the most part, went fairly smoothly and was completed shortly after Labor Day 2008.

However, the bridges are a different story. The issues that halted progress on the bridge over Sodom Brook in September still have not been resolved at the time of this writing.

As always, I thank my crew, Bill Jablonski, Jerry Ostrowski, and Mike Robbins for their hard work and dedication to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Westhampton Police Department is to provide professional, community policing oriented service to the residents of Westhampton. Over the past year, our officers worked to keep the homes and streets of the town safe and secure. We continue to work with the fire and highway departments to accomplish the overall task of providing public safety to members of this community.

The five part-time officers of the department have completed their yearly training in firearms, first aid/CPR, legal updates, sexual assault investigation and defensive tactics. Each officer has wide ranging specialties and experience that benefit the town in so many ways. Collectively our officers have over 60 years of policing experience in the Pioneer Valley. I am proud to be as part of this team.

The following is a synopsis of calls for service in 2008:

	2006	2007	2008
Emergency/paged out calls	132	232	330
To include:			
- Arrests/summons	4	10	10
- Disturbances	17	11	3
- Breaking Entry	6	5	3
- Larcenies	12	6	6
- Domestic Calls	5	6	6
-Assault	1	2	1
- alarms/911 hang up/misdials	45	63	121
-Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	24	18	19
- Medical/Fire Assists	13	18	8
- Accidents	16	19	41
- Officer assistance	20	26	64
- Vandalism	5	21	6

Officers checked messages at the station an average of 5 times per day.

As always, the department is open to constructive suggestions to improve service. The non-emergency line is checked at least twice per day. Please leave a message and your call will be returned at the earliest possible convenience. If you have an emergency, please call 911. This urgent call will go to the State Police Barracks in Northampton and an officer will be paged out. In the event a town officer is not available, the Massachusetts State Police will respond to assist.

Firearms applications are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month. Pictures are no longer required to apply. The application may be downloaded off our website at WesthamptonPolice@Yahoo.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

D. White #671
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department had another successful year in 2008 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to one-hundred and thirty-two calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, and many more. The biggest challenge faced by emergency responders this year was the ice storm on December 11th. This storm left numerous homes without power and heat and required a number of resources to be deployed for this emergency. Department personnel went door-to-door that weekend to all of the affected areas to ensure individuals didn't need any assistance, and arranged for any needed accommodations as requested.

In addition to these emergency responses, over two-hundred and fifty inspections and permits were completed and issued throughout the year. These inspections and permits can range from smoke detector and carbon monoxide inspections, installation of oil burners and propane tanks, and issuing burning permits and fireworks display permits. The fire department has concentrated on preventative efforts throughout the community the past few years in an effort to help minimize loss of life and

property and sustain a volunteer department with low operational costs.

One of the greatest challenges faced by volunteer departments across the country is the recruitment and retention of department members. Greater demands on training, increasing call volumes and the balance of a full time job and family all require a delicate balance that can minimize the number of people interested in becoming a member. The Town of Westhampton has been very fortunate over the years, given the difficulties seen by other departments, to maintain this type of department and the high level of performance and services provided by these individuals. The department currently has thirty-two volunteer members, of which three of them joined this past year. They are Tim Kortowski, Jon Long, and Keith Robbins. All three members are currently taking training courses through the Hampshire County Fire Defense Association and have completed their first responder medical training.

The Fire Department completed a number of initiatives this year in an effort to continually improve the safety of all the personnel on the Department and improve the services being provided to the community. Additionally, we are trying to slowly bring many aspects of the services provided, training, equipment procurement and maintenance up to national standards.

The department's fleet of apparatus consists of two Engines, one Water Tanker, one Brush Truck, one Rescue/Supply Truck, and one Utility/Command/Rapid Response Vehicle. All vehicles are checked by Department personnel regularly on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. In addition, the Town's Highway Department has been a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, completing all routine maintenance and upkeep of the vehicles. The vehicle maintenance program, as established, helps to prolong the expected life-span of the vehicles and improve the safety during emergency responses. Again this year, we had both Engines professionally pump-tested to ensure adequate pump performance as determined by the

manufacturers. These testing procedures are also reflected in the Departments Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus.

This year, the Department had all of the fire hose pressure tested to ensure adequate operational effectiveness. National Standards recommend that this is done once a year, and in addition, it is reflected in the ISO ratings that this testing procedure be done to minimize the insurance rates in Town. More important, to ensure the safety of all members utilizing fire hose during operational procedures, it is our responsibility that they are provided with equipment that is safe and functioning to the highest standards. The testing revealed that the Department did have fire hose in service that did not pass the required pressure rating. These were removed from service and replaced with some of the spare hose that was tested and passed the requirements. These testing requirements demonstrated that this was a project that was long overdue and one that needs to be continued each year to help ensure the integrity and operational capacity of the equipment is maintained.

In 2008, the Department finally upgraded its communications capabilities by having a radio repeater installed on Mount Skinner in South Hadley. A radio repeater strengthens the radio signal being transmitted to the receiver allowing for clearer reception and stronger signals. Prior to this repeater, communications within the Department and with other personnel, surrounding communities, and the Dispatch Center at the State Police Barracks in Northampton were at best difficult, spotty, and inconsistent. Emergency personnel had difficulty talking on a portable radio to all of these other agencies, creating a safety issue and confusion on the scene of an emergency. The Westhampton Fire Department championed this regional project, pushing it forward with the help of the State Department of Conservation and Recreation, Northampton State Police Dispatch Center, the Town of Hatfield, and the Hampshire County Fire Chiefs Association. Now, with this new system in place, the

Town of Westhampton has a communications system that is much more reliable and effective, provides for duplication and backup site selection, and provides a safer communications platform in which to function during emergency responses.

Renovations at the fire station were completed by installing an interior staircase to access the upstairs. Over the years, the exterior staircase leading to the second floor has been treacherous to traverse during the winter months. The environmental elements would continue to build up with snow and ice, creating a dangerous situation for all personnel. The new interior staircase has allowed all emergency personnel to safely pass between floors during the winter months to attend training sessions, monthly meetings, and retrieve equipment and supplies for responses. This project was long overdue for the Department and all members extend their sincere thanks to the entire Town for helping to support the renovation.

The Fire Department, in conjunction with the Town Highway Department, installed a walkway from one of the wings at the Elementary School to a safe area, in an effort to provide for a secondary means of egress from the emergency exit away from the school during emergencies and needed evacuations. Prior to the completion of this project, there was no path of egress during the winter months. In particular was the concern that there was no way for individuals to get away from the building except for going through any accumulations of snow and ice in the back of the building, creating delays and increasing the possibilities for injuries. This project turned out to truly be a community project, due in part to all of the help and donations received from many local business owners. Hathway Construction, Steve Holt Landscaping, Norris Family Farm, and Dave Loven all made overwhelming contributions to make this project financially possible. Finally, David Blakesley and his crew from the Highway Department were instrumental from the beginning and the amount of time and labor put into this project by that Department is unmatched. This project would not have been completed if it was not for them.

The Town of Westhampton received the designation of a "HeartSafe Community" on Monday, February 4th, 2008. This designation is given to communities that have demonstrated the ability to provide exceptional emergency medical services throughout their communities. Residents of the communities with this designation have an increased chance of surviving a cardiac emergency given the criteria met by the emergency response organizations. Areas that are evaluated throughout the process include community CPR programs, Public Access AED's or defibrillators, early advanced life support treatment and interventions, and defibrillators on every first response vehicle. Westhampton is only one of a handful of communities in Western Massachusetts that has been able to obtain this designation.

The Department continues to be vigilant for any other funding sources available for Fire Departments. This past year the Department was awarded a Federal Homeland Security Grant in the amount of $71,450 for the purchase of new personal protective clothing for each member, a washer/extractor to clean the gear, and wall mounted storage lockers to properly care for and maintain the personal protective equipment. Another Federal grant, in the amount of $4,580, was awarded to the Department to assist with preventive efforts throughout the community and help with the continuation of training the general public and emergency responders in CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). In addition, we were awarded $3,900 from the Executive Office of Public Safety for the purchase of firefighting equipment that the Department has never had the funding to obtain. All of these grants are competitive grants with Departments across the country vying for the same funding. These awards demonstrated the need that the Department had and allowed us to increase our operational capabilities to help improve the services being provided throughout the community. Finally, the Fire Department would like to thank the Pine Island Lake Association for donating money to help purchase water and ice rescue equipment. The Department did not have any type of this equipment and relied on

the response from neighboring communities during these emergencies. This equipment was not eligible to be purchased from any of the other grant opportunities and would not have been possible for the Department to procure without the help from this Association.

There are a number of capital projects that the Fire Department is going to need input and support on from the community in the immediate future. The largest of these is a need for a new Public Safety Complex to meet the growing demands of the community. The current facility is reaching sixty years old and no longer is able to accommodate the demands placed on the Public Safety Services (Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management). In addition, one of the Fire Engines is twenty-two years old and has an expected life span of twenty-five years. However, no new engine available will fit in the current facility given the current parameters. Furthermore, the refurbished bread truck that has been being used as a Rescue/Support Truck is old, worn, loaded to its' maximum carrying capacity, and is being used for functions that it was not originally designed, creating operational and safety issues. The Department is also continuing to explore grant opportunities to replace the current Water Tanker that has also met its' useful life span and develop contingency plans if this goal is not met. We will continue to explore all available funding options to minimize the financial impact on the community, but the conversation needs to begin now in order to plan and prepare for vehicles and equipment for the next ten to twenty-five years and a facility that will continue to meet the service demands for the next fifty plus years.

The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residents swimming pools, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and decrease response times. The

Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few healthy and vigorous volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community.

We would all like thank our fellow residents for your continued support throughout the year in helping to make our job easier. We strive to improve our knowledge and services to help make Westhampton a safer community to live in. Through our members values of professionalism, honesty, integrity, compassion, and dedication we will continue to meet the needs of the residents and remain "Committed to the Community". Have a great year and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Norris
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board continues to conduct sanitary inspections of food establishments, the campground and schools, as well as responding to housing complaints.

The Board continues to oversee planning and issue permits for onsite septic systems. Few permits were issued this year for new construction lots. Most permits were for repairs, many at Pine Island Lake.

The Board continues to oversee operations at the Transfer Station. Board hired John Guimond as the new Transfer Station Attendant. Board wishes to thank DPW for all its help at the Transfer Station and especially this year for help installing safety railings around the bins. Board continues to rely on the HRMC for its expertise in handling our trash and recycling needs. Thanks go out to Eric Weiss who runs the HRMC. A new recycling initiative this year has been established: the "mercury recycling program" where all fluorescent lighting bulbs, both

traditional and compact, are now being collected and recycled as part of our Hazardous Waste Removal Program. This program has been mandated by the State DEP.

Board members continued to be involved with our emergency planning partner, the Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Coalition. In addition, "Regionalization" of all public health services is being heavily promoted by state public health officials. The question may soon come before the town as to whether it wants to continue to operate a municipal board of health.

The Board gives great thanks to Jackie Duda, our assistant and Health Agent of many years. We are grateful for her help over the years, and we wish her happiness and health.

The Board continues to meet at Town Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please call Martin Flynn if you wish to be put on the agenda. Meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Flynn, Chair
William Magrone, Clerk
Thomas Martin, Officer

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Last year the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative helped your Town recycle and divert over 223.26 tons of material saving the Town over $17,480.39 in avoided disposal costs and earning over $5,577.63 in recycling revenue to support your recycling programs . For your Towns annual assessment amount of $4,978.10 you received over $23,058.02 in indirect costs savings, services and revenues from the services and efforts provided by the HRMC.

The HRMC is a unique, regional municipally funded organization which was created in 1989 by concerned residents in the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. Since 1989 the primary mission of the HRMC has been to assist its member Towns with the planning and management solid waste and recycling programs. The HRMC is now also examining new sustainability programs to benefit the entire Hilltown region.

These are challenging times for recycling programs. Since October 1, 2008 the world wide recycling markets, like all other economic markets, have fallen to their lowest levels in years. We continue to receive some revenue for our recyclables and so far there have not been any reductions in the materials we can recycle. So for now your Towns ability to recycle everything it can through programs managed by the HRMC is OK. During the upcoming year the HRMC plans to continue to assist all of its member Towns with their important recycling and environmental protection efforts. Encouraging environmental protection efforts through recycling and sustainability based outreach programs will help to limit the effects of climate change and help reduce our footprint on the earth are now more important than ever.

The HRMC has not requested an assessment budget increase in over 5 years and in this year's FY 2010 budget we have reduced our assessment to the member Towns by 5% because of the current economic situation we are all in. The HRMC will be more prudent in how it manages its budget and some program reductions may be needed at a later date.

The HRMC Administrator, Eric Weiss, our one and only employee helps all HRMC member Towns with these many tasks. Last year the HRMC helped the Towns' (combined) recycle over 2055.24tons of materials, saving the Towns over $149,651.49 in direct disposal costs savings and earning the Towns (combined) over $48,785.55 in recycling revenue.

Currently the HRMC assists your Town in the following (8) ways;

1) Assists local officials with the careful and cost efficient management of the Towns waste management and recycling program.
2) Helps protect the environment through the recycling of as many items as possible including; glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper, newspaper, junk mail, cardboard, electronics, tires, propane tanks, paint, clothes, fluorescent light bulbs and other common household products.
3) Operates the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Paint Recycling, Electronics Recycling programs and Mercury Collection Programs to help keep toxic materials out of our local environment.
4) Assists your Town directly with the bidding of recycling hauling, solid waste hauling, disposal contracts and transfer station equipment.
5) Obtains cash and equipment grants to assist your Town.
6) Assists your Town with the development new recycling programs.
7) Advocates on behalf of its member Towns with State legislators.
8) Explores long term sustainability and climate change issues which will effect and benefit all Hilltown Communities.

We look forward to continuing to help you and your Town protect the environment and save money. If you have any questions about recycling, sustainability or have a waste disposal problem, please call us at (413) 268 - 3845 or email us hrmc@crocker.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual farm animal census was completed by mid January 2009 with the following results:

Dairy Cattle over 2 yrs	186
Dairy Cattle under 2 yrs	136
Beef Cattle over 2 yrs	18
Beef Cattle under 2 yrs	15
Goats	73
Sheep	25
Swine	4
Horses/ponies	116
Donkeys/mules	8
Chickens	266
Turkeys	8
Water Fowl	34
Guineas	6
Peafowl	20

The animals all appeared healthy and well cared for. In addition, there was one 10 day and one 45 day quarantine performed and 1 shipment of cattle from out of state was inspected.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

This year of "08" was a very busy year. We worked with Warner Bros on using the new section just cleared for a field office and construction site.

We had our Annual Meeting May 29, 2008 and went over many items. On May 26, we received a letter from Ed Fisher that he was stepping down as cemetery caretaker. As a note from the Committee, he did a very good job for the last thirteen years. His last day was June 30th. So the Committee advertised for the job and got three applications. Another meeting was held to review applications and do interviews. We hired a new caretaker after many meetings and a review of cemetery rates.

This past year there were:

1 -Traditional Burials
7 -Cremations
4 -Foundations
4 -New Lots

Respectfully Submitted

Josh Hickey, Chair

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

Veterans and their dependents were consulted and assisted in filing claims for benefits under the provision of Ch. 115, 108 CMR, state of Massachusetts and also assisting veterans and their families for Death Benefits, VA claims and also Social Security.

Continuously we assist all veterans and their dependents upon their needs. In the year 2008, the VA has put tremendous efforts in providing immediate care for veterans that may have TBI and

PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, respectively.

We are on call 24-7 as always to help our deserving veterans and their families.

God Bless America!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Messier
Director of Veterans' Services

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Active Members: Steve Holt, (current chair), Tom Jenkins, (outgoing chair), Brad Morse, Fred Morrison, Bob LaPalme, (secretary)

The Conservation Commission has had a busy year overseeing the state's wetlands protection standards for the town and its citizens.

Tom Jenkins has finished his third consecutive appointment as chair of the commission. Tom did an outstanding job as chair over the years, his knowledge in the field and leadership and organizational skills in the office and at meetings have been key to the success of the Commission's activity on behalf of the town and its inhabitants.

Steve Holt is the newly appointed chair of the conservation commission. The commissioners are looking forward to continuing under Steve's capable guidance. Steve will continue to oversee the South Road project for conservation commission issues as he has done throughout the past year.

Below is a summary of some of the commission's activities for 2008.

- Public Hearings 6
- Requests for Determinations by the commission 6
- Site visits 10
- Orders of Conditions 2
- Notices of Intent 2

Other

- Wetlands questions by townspeople 2
- Permit extension 1
- Potential violations corrected 2
- Signed building permits 2

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

There were eighteen septic systems worked on in 2008. There were ten septic systems that were upgraded to today's codes.

There were also six new systems for dwellings and two tight tanks installed at Pine Island Lake.

People are reminded that some new septic tanks have a filter in them. They need to be checked and cleaned every year.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector
527-4841

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There were 95 building/occupancy permits issued in 2008 with $12,839.18 taken in as fees with $2,376,248 as taxable value.

Permits issued in 2008.

Permit Classification	Value	No.
Above Ground Pools	29,800	5
Additions	539,495	10
Barns/Sheds	27,450	12
Decks	12,400	3
Exterior Boilers	26,500	3
Garages	53,160	2
Insulation	1730	1
Occupancy Permits	135	7
One Family	1,285,000	6
Porches	24,700	3
Pavilions	15,000	1
Renovations	138,800	9
Repairs	31,190	4
Retaining Walls	5,000	1
Reroof	48,504	9
Siding	37,200	4
Solar Panels	1,800	1
Studio	66,000	1
Tents	0	1
Windows	8,384	4
Wood Stoves/Chimneys	24,000	8

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Miller
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2008, the Plumbing Inspector's office received thirty-three permit applications. Nineteen were for plumbing work and fourteen were for gas piping. There were six new homes and thirteen remodeling jobs.

A total of $2,310 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The focus of the Westhampton Council on Aging is to enhance the quality of life for all Westhampton residents who are age 60 and over and to provide them a variety of services and activities.

The Council on Aging Board (COA) consists of seven members with the membership rotating when a member has served a three year term. The Select Board appoints board members who are nominated by residents and current board members the applicant then submit a letter to the Selectboard that they are interested. The COA board meets at Westhampton Woods, as a planning group, on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m. with no meeting in July.

The current Council on Aging board members:

TERM ENDING JUNE 2009.....Sally Lawton & Gale Wright
TERM ENDING JUNE 2010.....Jean Webster & Pat Warren
TERM ENDING JUNE 2011.....Charles Ognibene, Ann Tracy and Liz Anderson

FUNDING .....Fiscal Year Funding comes from the following sources:

State Grant - The State Office of Elder Affairs
Town of Westhampton
Federal Grant - Highland Valley Elder Service

The COA served 298 individuals age 60 and over and distributed 215 COA Newsletters each quarter. The COA wishes to thank the 49 volunteers who provide the following services: Board Members and Officers, S.A.L.T/Triad, Program co-chairman, H-E-N (Helping Elders in Need) Program, Transportation Dispatcher, Newsletter Mailings, and Luncheon Planning. Others who give of their time to – send get-well, birthday and sympathy cards, gift that are made flower and birthday cupcakes for senior's birthdays, photographers for the newsletters and computer maintenance. Thanks to Friends of COA, and those who are successful in raising funds by organizing garden tours and pie sales. A huge thank you to those of you who provide much needed help, without being asked, at our monthly meetings.

In addition to the above the Town of Westhampton with the Franklin Regional Transportation Association to pay mileage to drivers who offer free transportation to seniors for appointments, with the drivers donating their time. A Flu Clinic is held each November this year 92 seniors attended. Seniors attend exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Town Hall at 8:00 a.m. The COA chairman and the treasurer attend bi-monthly meetings as members of the seven town of the Hilltown Consortium; Liz is a member of the Advisory Board for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, and president of the Westhampton Woods Board of Directors.

The Council on Aging lacks a senior center, and is located in the chairman's home at 12 South Road; you may call Liz at 413 527-0142 for information.

The year 2008 has been another active year. All Westhampton seniors are invited to join us for home cooked dishes at our

Potluck Luncheon on the first Thursday of the month. We have an average of 40 members attending each month; with no meeting held in August. Before the luncheon, blood pressures are taken, and birthday cards are signed. Following the luncheon a program is given featuring entertaining, educational or informative programs. This includes the summer picnic and intergenerational meeting hosting the 4th grade and their grandparents. Because of the cost of trips we enjoyed one bus trip this year to the Springfield Museums.

As always we are very grateful for the interest and support we receive from the church and from town and school officials.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Anderson, chairman
Jean Webster, co-chairman
Ann Tracy, treasurer
Sally Lawton, secretary
Charles Ognibene
Pat Warren
Gale Wright

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted $4300 by the State Council to fund grant applications in FY09. We had $732 left from unused from the previous year and we had $75 appropriated by Westhampton at the annual town meeting.

One (1) PASS Grant Application and twenty seven (27) LCC Grant Applications were received in the amount of $9921.00. The Council funded or partially funded sixteen (16) of these requests. The Westhampton Cultural Council has been streamlined by the

State (members have completed special training(and all functions are now processed online. Grant money is automatically deposited into the Town's treasury for immediate use. Sixty dollars has been approved to fund the Westhampton Cultural Council's operating expenses.

The following applications were approved for FY09:

1. Westhampton Elementary School PASS Grant Application to attend the performance of Awaji Puppet Theater, $431
2. Paul Bouchard, Salute to the Greatest Generation, $600
3. Friends of the Chesterfield Library, Book-making, $200
4. Friends of the Westhampton Library, Starlab, $150
5. Friends of the Williamsburg Library, Hilltown Sunday Music Series, $60
6. Friends of the Westhampton Library, Jam Puppet Band, $500
7. Friends of the Westhampton Library, Jungle Encounters, $245
8. Hampshire Regional School PTSO, Hampshire Regional Musical, $500
9. Hilltown CDC, Hilltown Spring Festival, $100
10. Gregory Maichack, How to Pastel Paint, $435
11. Priscilla Miller, Music for Memorial Day, $400
12. Kate O'Connor, A Beautiful Future, $425
13. John Porcino, To Life, $400
14. Carol Abbe Smith, Jazz Concert for Easthampton, $100
15. The Ct. River Watershed Council, Living Along The River, $100
16. Westhampton Elementary School, Mosaic Project, $500

We have added three new members to the Westhampton Cultural Council. The Council tries to present a well-balanced distribution of projects/arts/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Westhampton. Please contact the Selectboard if you

wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Baer, Chair
Ellice Brandow
Steve Greenbaum
Jacqui LaFrance
Paula Murphy
Renee Schultz
Gale Wright
Roberta Merrington

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Members of the Historical Commission are Barbara Fuller, chair, Dan Krug, Bill Tracy, and Freeman Scott. We thank former member Tom Warren for his past service and we will miss his dedication and help. Barbara Pelissier serves as an ad hoc member and provides great information and expertise. Most of our efforts involve operation of the museum. The Museum is open each Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00p.m. from Memorial Day to the Fall Festival.

Throughout the summer we sponsor interesting and educational programs at the museum. Among the most interesting was a display of hand sewn samplers. Barbara Pittsinger of Pittsfield had a wonderful display from her family who used to live in this area. Several townspeople brought samplers from their families and they covered a time period of three centuries. John Passiglia (John The Blacksmith) returned for a second year and demonstrated his talents, and Dan Krug displayed his vast button collection.

Barbara Fuller and Barbara Pelissier worked to put all documents, letters, and pictures into mylar sleeves to preserve them. Dave and Anita Goddard donated some wonderful old documents and deeds which they found in their attic. We thank

them for this generous gift. Many of these documents we hope to store and display in the new library when it is completed.

We want to extend a big THANK YOU to Bob Miller for his gift of keeping the grounds at the museum mowed and trimmed each summer.

We have continued planning, getting bids, and now starting work on the project of insulating and sheathing the back room at the museum. It is hoped we can install a small heater in this improved room so meetings can be held there and work carried on during winter months, making the building useful for a greater portion of the year. You may remember we received a gift of $3200 dollars from Myron Strong in memory of his mother Esther Strong Holway for this purpose. We expect to have it completed by Memorial Day. Thanks go to Freeman Scott and his family for moving everything out of that room.

We will keep our budget request the same as last year as we continue to do maintenance and repairs on the rest of the building.

All in all, a good year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fuller, Chairman

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Library is overseen by an elected six-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet in the Library on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Their duties include setting policy, overseeing finances and the physical plant, supervising and evaluating the library director, and addressing planning and development issues.

Though limited by space and facilities, the dedicated and talented staff of the Library has provided, over many years, valued services from its small home in the center of town. Now, due to the determination of the Friends of the Westhampton Library, to their creative efforts, and their hard work, our town will soon have a new library building on the site of the Westhampton Congregational Church's former parsonage. Their inspired fund raising events - Mardi Gras, BB & B, Flamingo, Fall Festival, Solstice Bonfire, Pledge Drive - have made possible their courageous purchase of the parsonage and the funding of their component of the building project. At a special Town Meeting on November 24, 2008, the parsonage was given by the Friends to the town . This set the stage for payments from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' grant of $1,065,074, which will cover 60% of the cost of the new building, to begin to flow and merge with the funds raised by the Friends. It is anticipated that a new library will be serving patrons by the Spring of 2010. For so much that has been, and is expected to be, accomplished, the Trustees extend their gratitude to the Friends, our library director, and the committees that are entrusted with the innumerable details of seeing the building process through to completion. Besides the patrons who utilize the Library as a resource for printed books, audio books and music CDs, movie tapes and DVDs, periodicals, interlibrary loans, and special programs (e.g. Summer Reading Program for children), a number of groups hold regular meetings in the Library: the Trustees, Friends of the Library, Library Building Committee, Council on Aging garden tour committee,

the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and a 4-H Club. These, and other groups, can expect to have improved access and space when the new building is completed.

The Library, which has open hours five days a week, is staffed by a full time, qualified, and certified director, Carolyn Keating, who has overseen operations with a high degree of professionalism for the past 18 years, and a very able assistant, Hilary Nolan, who is responsible for the preschool story times and other children's programming as well as general library duties. The use of the Library remains strong: the circulation is high, and there is a continued increase in the use of the popular interlibrary loan systems including the Internet based C/WMARS. As of July 1, 2008 the Library had 972 cardholders and had circulated 24,419 items, which included 4,097 items sent via delivery to other libraries. We received 2,855 items from other libraries for our patrons.

The Trustee's budget request for the coming fiscal year reflects what we believe to be the minimum needed for us to continue to provide quality services and to maintain our M.B.L.C. certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray V. Giordano, Chair
Jim LaBerge, Secretary
Gail Haggerty, Treasurer
Andrea Belanger
Lynn Cooper
Barbara Nichols
Board of Trustees

REPORT OF LIBRARY FUNDS

Library funds in the custody of the Town Treasurer at the beginning of fiscal year 2008 were as follows:

Gift accounts:	$ 9,399.72
Capital account	$33,968.45
Grant Match	$10,348.82

During fiscal year 2008, gifts in the amount of $3,271.75 were received. Gifts were received from the Friends of the Library, Karen Holywood, Hanging Mountain Co-op, Aurea LaPlate, Ann Boynton, Sage Books, and in memory of George Allard Sr. and Mahlon Parsons. Expenditures to support the library totaled $2036.75, leaving a balance in the gift accounts of $10,634.72 at the end of the fiscal year.

Interest on the capital account totaled $927.99, leaving a balance of $34,896.44 at year-end.

$30.21 was spent from the Town's match for the Library Grant, with $10,318.61 remaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Town Treasurer

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE

Our current library no longer meets the needs of our town. Based on state library standards, the library is severely undersized and is out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1997, Westhampton's Board of Library Trustees commissioned a long-range plan for the future of the Library. Based on the future needs detailed in that report, the Selectboard appointed a Library

Building Committee (LBC) to explore options for resolving the library's space and access problems. A Planning and Design Grant application that was funded by the State and a planning architect was retained.

In 2004, the Westhampton Congregational Church announced its decision to sell its Parsonage building, located across the street from the Library and surrounded by nearly three acres of open space. The LBC realized that the Parsonage property might provide the town with much more than a site for "just a library." The open space could be available for outdoor events, and the existing library could be converted to town offices and storage space for the town's legal and historic documents. Accordingly, after much deliberation, the LBC instructed its planning architects to draw initial plans for a new library incorporating the Parsonage.

The LBC prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. In June 2005, the Town learned that its application had been selected to receive a state library building grant, contingent on funding by the Legislature. The previous month the Annual Town Meeting had voted in unanimous support of the library project. The challenge that remained was to raise the balance of funding (approximately $1 million dollars).

Votes at two Special Town Meetings failed to secure the necessary 60% vote for a debt exclusion to fund the remaining costs of acquisition and construction. Therefore, in the summer of 2007, the Friends of the Westhampton Memorial Library began an ambitious and ultimately successful private fundraising campaign.

In June 2008 the Legislature enacted a massive bond bill which included full funding for the State's share of the Library project.

With the success of the fundraising effort, the Friends purchased the Parsonage for $370,000 ($80,000 below appraised value) in

January 2008, and in January 2009 the Town, in turn, accepted the building and land as a gift from the Friends.

As required by State law, after a competitive process, the LBC hired a Project Manager. Mark Sullivan of DA Sullivan of Northampton. Mr. Sullivan advises the LBC, attends all meetings and will oversee construction. After another competitive process, the LBC engaged Tappé Associates, as architects for the project. Jeffrey Hoover is the lead architect for the project. By the end of 2008, the architect had completed initial drawing and the design for the Library had been selected.

Significant activities in 2009 include putting the project out to bid, selecting a general contractor, and beginning construction. The LBC hopes to break ground for the project in late Spring or early Summer 2009.

An important component of our new library project is creating a structure that is energy efficient. To accomplish this, the LBC has enlisted help from Smith College's engineering department. A team of faculty and students has analyzed the plans for the library and developed a list of recommendations to improve the building's energy efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Dowling, Chairperson
Laurie Sanders, Secretary
Bob Fleischner, Vice Chair
Andrea Belanger
Carolyn Keating
Tom Martin
Dot Miller
Hillary Nolan
Art Pichette
Renee Schultz
Diane Thornton

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee acts as the board of directors for the elementary school, overseeing the budget, teacher contract negotiations, local education policy, and the hiring and evaluating of the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating the principal and the principal oversees the teaching staff. The State Board of Education establishes the spending levels, education policy, and curriculum.

The Westhampton School Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the school. The committee members are Tarin Weiss, Chairperson; newly elected member Irene Ryan, Vice-chairperson; and Bill Seney, Secretary. Irene Ryan also serves on the HRHS School Committee.

This year we said goodbye to long time school committee member Dave Antosz. We would like to thank him for his 9 years of dedicated and tireless service. He is sorely missed.

Westhampton Elementary School welcomed two new teachers this fall. Sarah Overstreet is teaching the 4th grade replacing Greg Kerstetter and Shelby Marowitz as an additional teacher for our very large 08/09-kindergarten class.

Principal Deane Bates has implemented the new district curriculum and distributed the new school curriculum guide.

WES welcomed its first three School of Choice students while eight students left WES as part of the School of Choice Program.

The committee, with much help from Business Administrator Cindy Landers, continues to seek energy saving measures through various state, federal and private agencies to help lower costs.

The committee has recently entered into contract negotiations with the teachers association.

Several informative meetings on state funding cuts, regionalizing, and readiness schools were attended by committee members.

A new sidewalk was added to the rear of the school through a much appreciated volunteer effort. This new sidewalk is maintained through the winter months by the town and served as an emergency evacuation route during this years successful school evacuation exercise.

The Westhampton PTO continues to provide support to our school through much hard work and fundraisers. Field trips, children's theater productions and numerous upgrades to the schools computers and other electronic teaching tools lead a long list of contributions made by these dedicated people. All of these aforementioned services and capital improvements come at no cost to the town.

As stated a year ago in the 07 annual report, school infrastructure concerns continue to increase as the building ages. Many basic needs will remain unmet without some sort of capital plan for the future. Nearly all of the gutters on the building are gone due to sliding snow. This accumulating snow also presents a possible safety concern because, in some areas, it has reached all the way to the roofline in front of some classroom windows. Carpeting, boilers, roof etc. are all 20 years old and, while not imminently failing, will not last forever. It's a tribute to the staff and especially the custodian that the school is in as good a shape as it is considering the budget constraints.

Westhampton Elementary offers its students an excellent educational experience. A concerted effort will be required to complete the 2009-10 budget so as to maintain the current level of services the school offers. The school committee recognizes the concerns of the town where finances are concerned and has tried to keep increased expenses at a minimum, especially with

the current national economic upheaval. Unfortunately, with escalating costs, new curriculum books to assist in the district curriculum alignment and contractual obligations there may be a need to approach the town for a possible override vote this spring.

Respectfully submitted,

William Seney, Secretary
Irene Ryan, Vice Chairperson
Tarin Weiss, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Westhampton Elementary School
For the year ended June 30, 2008

REVENUE		
Appropriation		$1,100,489
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	$ 930,624	
Services	$ 144,423	
Supplies	$ 25,442	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$1,100,489
Closed to General Fund		$ 0
VOCATIONAL EXPENSES		
APPROPRIATION		
Transportation	$ 40,950	
Tuition	$ 226,133	$ 181,103
EXPENDITURES		
Transportation	$ 40,950	
Tuition	$ 129,885	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 170,835
APPROPRIATION OVER(UNDER) EXPENDITURES		$ 96, 248

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Hampshire Regional School Committee which serves the five town regional secondary school district has been active and engaged on many issues throughout 2008. The District, including the towns of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg, has completed three and a half years under the leadership of Superintendent Barbara Ripa. While her evaluation for 2008 remains a work in progress, our preliminary review indicates she continues to meet and exceed our expectations and continues her efforts to insure quality education to the children of our communities. The Hampshire Regional School Committee along with the elementary districts have extended Dr. Ripa's contract. We are pleased to continue to work with her and our district administrators to meet the educational needs of all students in our School District.

Setting the Regional budget for fiscal '09 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) as always required communication and cooperation between the Regional School Committee and the elected officials of our communities. With State Chapter 70 and transportation funding increasing but little from fiscal '08, each of our district towns faced financial difficulties to meet our budget request. Hampshire Regional shares District financial data with the towns to help local officials understand our financial situation and needs. The five towns continued to face their own budget problems and assistance was most difficult in Southampton. The Regional School Committee adopted and the towns supported a final '08 budget of $11,098,030 for the Regional School District which represented a 5.4% increase over the District's Fiscal '08 budget. The budget increase was driven by increased health insurance, energy and transportation costs. The continued increase in health care costs is a problem that extends beyond our District, but, we continue to seek ways to reduce increases. Our staff agreed to pay higher percentages for health insurance through collective bargaining in early 2008. The FY '09 budget permitted some necessary technology improvements. Hampshire

Regional also began a very successful laptop lease program (LEEP) that seeks to provide our students with computers to prepare them for the global economic realities of the 21st century. Planning for educational change remains difficult without greater resources. It is clear from the economic chaos of 2008 with rising oil prices and then falling state revenues affecting our towns that budgeting in 2009 will be extremely difficult. A new bus contract will be put out for bid in mid-2009 and, as our contractors experienced great difficulties with $4.00 per gallon fuel in 2008, higher transportation costs are likely. It is very possible that there will be changes in bus service in September 2009. Our District is in competition with surrounding districts and area charter schools and must continue to find ways to reach and maintain excellence in education if we are to meet the needs of our communities. Our District must remain safe, friendly, supportive, and innovative and a great place to learn.

Hampshire Regional Principal Jim Connolly served to June 2008. He came to Hampshire at a time of a budget deficit which reduced staff and worked very hard during his five years at Hampshire to add staff and resources every year. He very ably guided Hampshire through its 10 year NEASC accreditation process. He helped Hampshire Regional reflect on what it is and could be and kept it faithful to our mission. Dr. Connolly surveyed students and parents to determine their thoughts about Hampshire and helped establish our Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO). He has left us much to remember and a vision of our future. We thank him for his service to our school.

In January 2008, Hampshire Regional held its 25th annual History Day fair which involved our students in research and presentation of historical information. Two of our participants, eighth graders Alaina Belanger and Julie Roberts, presented their project "Captors and Captives:1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts" at the at the National History Day contest in the Washington, DC area in June 2008. In March 2008, our Drama Club and Music Department successfully presented Fiddler on the Roof. at Hampshire Regional. Also in

March, Hampshire's Guidance Department organized a career day for ninth graders. Our April 2008 Science Fair stressed the scientific method with research on a hypothesis and an explanation of results. In June, the School Committee again cooked breakfast for our 110 graduating seniors. Our seniors continue to complete 15 hours of community service as a graduation requirement. During the summer, Hampshire Regional and the four elementary districts received a health services grant that permits a rotating nurse to provide coverage to all our schools in the event that the regular nurse is absent. In September 2008, Patricia Clem began serving Hampshire Regional as our interim principal. In October, Evan Baum and Lauren Howe began serving as student representatives to the School Committee. Ann Trytko, our athletic director, was recognized by the MIAA as recipient of the Theodore Danko Award for significant contributions and invaluable service to interscholastic athletics. In March, Karissa Gorman, a member of our co-op swim team with Easthampton High School, won the 100 yard breast stroke at the MIAA state meet. Our co-op football team, also with Easthampton, participated in the 2008 Super Bowl losing to Assabet Valley 24-16. These activities and many others at Hampshire Regional helped the school to meet its mission to develop our student's knowledge and skills to enable them to be life-long learners and responsible citizens.

In 2008, Hampshire Regional made adequate yearly MCAS progress for all student groups. While our results are generally very good, the school must work diligently to meet the needs of all its students. Whenever students are identified as failing, Hampshire, through tutoring and additional academic effort, works to help them meet the MCAS requirements. The School Committee continued its commitment to maintaining our school's mission of a balanced, broad and humane education for every student.

The year 2008 was a time of continued challenge for Hampshire Regional and your School Committee. The Committee continued to work to provide our children with the best education we can in

difficult economic times. We value the excellent work of our teaching, support and administrative staff. We continue our work with them and with the students, parents and residents of the five towns to meet the challenges of 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Brousseau, Chair,
Hampshire Regional School Committee

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Barbara Ripa reports that the schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had another exciting and productive year. Teachers and staff worked hard to provide quality instructional and extra-curricular programs for our students, while maintaining safe, positive and productive learning environments within our schools. The following report will highlight some of the programs, events, measurements and activities undertaken as we strive to educate today's youth for tomorrow's world.

On September 2nd, Superintendent Ripa welcomed back 316 staff members from all five school districts during Convocation Day, held at Hampshire Regional. She thanked them for all their hard work in the previous school year and noted many recent successes throughout the districts:

- Through the collaborative efforts of teachers, administrators and other staff members, district personnel have increased awareness and understanding of safety, health and wellness issues in our schools and have developed and adopted wellness policies, nut protocols and emergency plans around shelter in place and evacuation. Many of our schools have Safety and/or Crisis Preparedness committees.
- We have expanded the number of computers and other educational technologies in our schools and increased teacher competence and confidence in using technology to enhance

instruction and learning. Our school websites are ever improving and the use of Connect Ed has helped keep our parents and families informed and included.

- We have improved teacher/Student ratios through the hiring of new staff and careful budgetary planning.
- New budgetary software program has provided more up-to-date information around budget balances and spending.
- Training in Responsive Classroom has provided a method for introducing and supporting positive classroom climate strategies for our elementary classrooms.
- The Pre-School Committee designed and piloted a Standards-Based Report Card.
- Teachers were trained in and implemented differentiated instructional strategies in their secondary classrooms.
- Secondary staff created curriculum maps to document what is taught in each content area in grades seven through twelve as a means to identify what standards are taught, when they are taught and how learning is measured.
- Elementary math teachers utilized a district math assessment to gather data on elementary math instruction.
- Enrichment activities and fairs at all levels highlight the multi-discipline curriculum and focus taught in all our schools.
- Hampshire Regional enjoyed its first musical in over thirty years. "Fiddler on the Roof" was a huge success.
- Transition from Grade 6 to Grade 7 is smoother for students and staff due to transitional planning and implementation.
- Through the successful application for the Essential School Health Services Grant, Mary Phelan was able to secure funds that are being used to pay the salary of an additional .5 nurse. While this additional health staff person is based at Hampshire Regional, she spends time at our elementary schools on a rotating basis, providing much needed assistance especially around conducting student screenings.
- Articulation meetings between Grades 6 and 7 math and language arts teachers have improved understanding of curricula taught at both levels.
- A new teacher evaluation plan will be piloted this year thanks to the work of the committee addressing professional growth and evaluation.
- Our district-wide elementary math curriculum is in its third year for grades 4-6 and second year for grades K-3. For the

first time, all of our schools and all of our sub-categories made AYP in math.

Some of these accomplishments came easily; others took much more work. But all are examples of what we were able to accomplish by working together toward common goals.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Deane Bates notes that the staff of Westhampton Elementary continued to make steady progress on our district's goals. They continued to develop and implement the district-wide curriculum. Most notably in the math curriculum, teachers from Westhampton Elementary worked on district wide teams as part of the math initiative and worked collaboratively with each other at the local level to implement the math programs. Our teachers helped to create and refine district-wide assessments. Teachers also participated in district professional development offerings and joined various committees and study groups to help further district-wide goals and initiatives.

Special Projects and Trainings:

A number of special projects took place at the Westhampton Elementary School this year.

- The year-long theme for the school was diversity.
- Teachers piloted the Lucy Caukins writing program as part of a multi-district initiative to explore elementary writing programs.
- Technology was be more accessible to teachers through the use of additional computers for the lab and several new digital projectors, which will increased access to United Streaming, which is a means of incorporating instructional video clips into classroom instruction. Many thanks to the PTO for their funding these projects.
- The new part time school psychologist, Joe Silverman, worked with staff to provide training in RTI – Response to Intervention.
- Also in the area of using technology to differentiate instruction Westhampton Elementary purchased fluency software to help emerging readers work on this important skill. These students were able to work at their own pace as the software is designed to be self guiding.

- Consultant Pat Donahue worked with teachers around differentiating instruction through using layered curriculum. Essentially the approach allows the teacher to build a layered lesson that fits the need of many different students.
- We made progress related to the goal of providing for the safety and welfare of students and staff. As part of the district administrative team we met with state police to review our emergency plans. After this meeting, our crisis team and began the process of revamping our staff emergency books. We elected to augment our comprehensive plan by developing a one page simplified plan at the recommendation of the police consultant.
- Again this year several members of our staff volunteered to take CPR, and defibrillation training. One of our teacher's, two aides and myself took the restraint training course offered at the Norris school.
- Several of our support staff along with our guidance counselor attended a day long training on bullying. I was happy to see that the support staff were so energized after the conference that they attended our next staff meeting to further discuss the issue with the teaching staff.
- As part of our planning for the safety and welfare of our students, we practiced an evacuation drill with local officials.
- Additionally we had a consultant come in and do training with the entire staff related to diversity to support the year-long theme.

Strong ongoing programs:

- The reading program continues to be a strong program at our school. I am especially impressed with our progression and communication in grades k-3. This past year, reading assessments were performed on all of the students in the school at the beginning and end of the year. Overall testing indicated that this is one of the stronger areas of our curriculum.
- Another area of strength is our use of Responsive Classroom. This approach has given us a common language to discuss school wide issues. This year several staff members were able to go out for responsive classroom training.

Major Accomplishments:

- Our School improvement planning process improved markedly this year. It was a benefit to have administrators throughout the district working on similar school improvement plans. We have

more cohesive and collaborative approach to school-wide issues.

- The town passing an override for both the Elementary and High School was greatly appreciated.
- Our web site continues to get better. This year we worked with consultant Bill Brown to improve the look of our site. All of our teachers now have web pages. As always, the challenge will now be to keep them updated.
- We successfully completed audits of our cafeteria and the special education programs.

Enrichment activities:

- Grant monies were used to pay our teachers John Bye, Greg Kerstetter, Andria Wolf, and Bridget King to tutor groups of students after school. Students were tutored in reading, and math. Tutoring took place with various groups from October through March and April. I was happy that our teachers and staff were willing to put hours in after school time to help these students.
- The Pioneer Valley School of Performing Arts came to the school to perform. Our Music teacher Beth Besser's son was part of the group. All of our students enjoyed the performance and working with the performers in their classrooms afterwards.
- The Berkshire Hills School Music visited the school for an afternoon performance. The Berkshire Hills School is for disabled students. Our students enjoyed meeting and hearing the life stories of these incredible students.
- We were happy to have John Bye revive the tradition of taking the Third Grade on an historical trip through Westhampton. This tour was originally created by Joyce Piper and Ginny Brown. Joyce returned to lead the tour for our students.
- Students and community members participated in fire safety training and "stranger danger" with local police.

Staffing Changes:

- Greg Kerstetter accepted a job in the Northampton school system.
- Sarah Overstreet was hired to replace Greg. Sarah most recently has taught the fourth grade in Greenfield.
- We have a new position in Kindergarten. Shelby Marowitz has joined us as a part time teacher. She worked with Jenn Thomas. Shelby taught Kindergarten in the Chicopee school system.

- Joe Silverman was hired as a part time school psychologist.

Special Recognition:

Kelly O'Connor, special education teacher, was recognized as an outstanding teacher. Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation, the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award annually recognizes the importance of teaching in the lives of children in our society and in the communities where they live, and is meant to encourage and support these extraordinary professionals in their commitment to teaching. Kelly was selected to be among the 2008 winners for this award. Kelly joined the Westhampton staff in 2004, providing speech and language services in pre-school through grade six. As the speech and language pathologist, Kelly works long hours after school and on weekends to ensure that her teaching time with children is preserved. She has developed wonderful relationships with students, parents and all members of the school community. Kelly takes her role as an educator very seriously and has helped Westhampton families better understand and make use of outside agencies and resources.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
October 1, 2007 Enrollment

GRADE	PRE-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
ENROLLMENT	23	12	15	14	16	19	19	22

WESTHAMPTON STUDENTS AT HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
October 1, 2007 Enrollment

GRADE	7^{th}	8^{th}	9^{th}	10^{th}	11^{th}	12^{th}
ENROLLMENT	20	20	23	16	13	21

School Committee members for school year 2008-2009

Irene Ryan
Bill Seney
Tarin Weiss, Chair

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

At the end of the 2007-08 school year and at the start of the 2008-09 school year, Hampshire Regional saw many faculty and staff changes:

- **Mrs. Patricia Clem,** replacing Principal **James Connelly,** became the Interim Principal for Hampshire Regional. However, in January, Mrs. Clem's status changed from Interim Principal to Principal. Welcome aboard, Mrs. Clem.
- **Mrs. Anita Hayes** retired after teaching in the foreign language department for 24 years and also serving as Curriculum Coordinator.
- We also said goodbye to our school nurse, **Mrs. Kathy Swiderski**. Mrs. Swiderski watched over our school children with tender loving care for 19-1/2 years. We wish Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Swiderski much happiness in their retirement.
- **Ms. Sally Masters**, Guidance, resigned her position to take a college assignment.
- **Ms. Laurie Garcia** will teach Spanish to replace Mrs. Hayes. Laurie came to us from The MacDuffie School in Springfield where she worked since 2004. Laurie actually worked part-time at Hampshire Regional as a Spanish teacher during the 1997- 98 school-year. She is excited about returning to Hampshire.
- **Mrs. Jennifer Garmirian** was hired as a Special Education teacher. Jen is not a stranger to HRHS. She has been working in Ms. DelVecchio's Life Skills classroom since February of 2008. Before that, Jen worked for the Hampshire Educational Cooperative classroom, which was housed in our building until December 2007.
- **Mrs. Cynthia Domina** is our new school nurse and comes to us from the Holyoke Medical Center where she was on the faculty and Springfield Technical Community College where she has been working as an R.N. Cindy has had many years of nursing experience.
- Through funds provided by the Essential School Health Services Grant, **Mary Price** will be our new halftime nurse. Mary has had a number of experiences as an RN in eastern and western Massachusetts. Her most recent experience was as a per diem school nurse at Hilltown Cooperative Charter School.
- **Dr. Joseph Silverman** returned to the Hampshire Regional School District as a part- time School Psychologist. Joe worked at Hampshire during the 2000 through 2003 school years. Welcome back Joe.
- **Mrs. Kathleen Campbell**, a long time Math paraprofessional at Hampshire also retired this summer. She will be replaced by **Mrs. Tammy Lyons** who has been working here as a Special Education paraprofessional.
- We welcomed the following Special Education paraprofessionals to Hampshire Regional: **Mrs. Elizabeth Sormanti, Ms. Lisa Lavelle, Mrs. Sarah Jablonski** and **Mrs. Carolyn Florek.** They replaced

Stephanie Puc, **David Powers** and **Kathleen Campbell**.

- **Jennifer Florek** was hired as a long-term substitute to replace Kelly Carpenter while she is out on a one-year maternity leave.
- We also welcomed back the following teachers who were on maternity leave last school year: **Mrs. Natalie Levreault, Mrs. Amy Cyr and Mrs. Tracey Pinkham.**
- **Christine Martin**, van driver, was hired to replace **Ron O'Brien**, who retired.

Celebrating teaching and learning

Julia Roberts and Alaina Belanger are national award winners placing 11th in the country for their National History Day research project "Captors and Captives: The 1704 French and Indian Raid On Deerfield, Massachusetts." Congratulations Julia and Alaina. We are so proud of your accomplishments.

This past summer, senior **Brittany Rice,** traveled to Iceland for two weeks. She participated in the Student Challenge Awards Program at Earthwatch Institute where she studied glaciers. She was one of nine US students who participated in the program. Brittany has decided that since her trip she definitely wants to pursue a career in science after high school.

Caitlin Powers traveled with her family to Akron, Ohio this summer to participate in the international soap box derby where she drove the car she built herself. Nice job Caitlin!

Cara Haxo was accepted into the All-State Chorus as an alto. She had an original piece of music performed during the March All-State Festival.

Michael Boucher and **Sam Antill** represented Hampshire Regional at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.

The Adams Scholarship offers four years of free tuition for students attending the University of Massachusetts or any participating state or community college. To qualify for the award, students must receive a score in the proficient or advanced level on the MCAS exam. Congratulation to 2008 winners: **Daniel Abrahamson, Amanda Blanchard, Christopher Brida, Laura Brown, Dominique Bruso, Seth Burt, Robin Clark, Bryan Clark Jr., Curtis Cox Jr., Melanie Culver, Kate Davies, Stephanie Desmond, Matthew Freniere, Eric Gillett, Julie Grden, Jonathan Hawkes, Benjamin Kitchen, Timothy Korpita, Cassandra Kulon, William Labrie, Blayne Lapan, Jacob Lyons, Derrek Marcus, Myles McCarthy, Elizabeth Moriarity, Brian Morse, Jonathan Myette, Sean O'Hare, Alyssa Ouimet, Thomas Paquette, Max Ponte, Sadie Prickett, Allison Prucnal, Kathryn Riel, Meaghan Swanson, Melissa Tavares** and **Kellie Welch.**

Through the direction of **Mary Phelan**, Health Education Coordinator for the district, Hampshire Regional School District sponsored a workshop series called ***Guiding Good Choices*** to help parents learn how to strengthen their bonds with their children and reduce the risk that their children will use drugs. In a lively and open atmosphere, parents learned specific strategies to help their children avoid drug use and other adolescent problem behaviors. Parents also learned how to set clear family guidelines, learned and practice skills to strengthen family bonds and help their children develop healthy behaviors.

Athletic Achievements and Awards:

- Swimmer **Karissa Gorman** won Div. 2 State Championship in the breaststroke.
- Wrestler **Cam Ursia** was runner up in the heavyweight class at Western Mass Championship.
- Hampshire cheerleaders won League and Western Mass. Championships.
- **Hampshire Golf team** claimed League championship for the 3rd time in 4 years and also won the PVIAC Conference Championship.
- Senior golfer **Sam LaBonte** won the PVIAC Individual Championship.
- Hampshire **Boys Soccer Team** won the League Championship for the 4th year in a row.
- Senior soccer player **Dillon Zaengle** received the Division 2 Player of the Year honor.
- The Hampshire/Easthampton **Eagles Football team** won the League Championship and was the Western Mass representative to the Div. IIIA Superbowl.
- Senior runner, **Nick Otis** took 2nd place at the WMASS Cross Country Championships.
- **Athletic Director Ann Trytko** was chosen by the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association to be this year's recipient of the Ted Damko Award. Mrs. Trytko was honored at the Annual MSSADA Conference in March.
- In April, after passing a national exam, **Mrs. Trytko** achieved the designation of Certified Athletic Administrator.

Staff recognition:

- Art Teacher **Karen Tetreault** displayed her photography at the Pelham Free Library during the month of January.
- World Language teacher **Cynthia Streker** was accepted into the Smith College Masters of Arts in Teaching degree program in the Department of Spanish/Education.
- In November, Hampshire Regional Choral Director **Rebecca Phelps** led the Bay Path Choral Group to perform in Vienna.

- Math teacher **Matthew Geertsma** and science teacher **Tara O'Brien** were engaged in a year-long activity project that uses math and science to design and build a school courtyard for students to enjoy.
- Math teachers **Jim Liptak, Terry Barut, Dale Nicodemi** and **Jenny Kirouac** continued to promote and support the student laptop initiative.
- **Dr. George Biggs** was appointed judge for the Promising Young Writers Program for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The Promising Young Writers Program is an NCTE-sponsored competition designed to honor eighth-grade students in the United States, Canada, and American schools abroad for excellence in writing.
- **Matthew Geertsma** was selected as one of the recipients of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award, which annually recognizes the importance of teaching in the lives of children in our society and in the communities where they live, and is meant to encourage and support these extraordinary professionals in their commitment to teaching. Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation, this prestigious award went to Matt to recognize him for his enthusiasm, energy, creativity and leadership.

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
October 1, 2007 Enrollment

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrollment	138	136	134	110	119	100

School Committee Members for 2008-09

Donald Abel
Diane Bishop
Brad Brousseau, Chair
Patricia Colson-Montgomery
Nancy Curtis
Janice Gibeau
Cathy Karowski
Sherrie Marti
Patrick Monahan
Joseph Moynahan
David Nardi
Karl Norris
David Pesuit
Irene Ryan
Katherine Smith
Donald Snyder
Angela Valinski
Tarin Weiss, Alternate

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Ripa,
Superintendent

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FISCAL 2008

REVENUES		
Assessments		
Chesterfield	$	511,128
Goshen	$	375,200
Southampton	$	3,191,776
Westhampton	$	1,022,187
Williamsburg	$	1,387,503
Total Assessments	$	6,487,794
Intergovernmental		
Chapter 70	$	2,812,808
Transportation	$	566,804
School Choice	$	335,000
Charter School	$	68,834
Medicaid	$	67,982
Excess & Deficiency	$	-
Total Intergovernmental		$3,851,428
Interest and Other		
Interest	$	34,280
Miscellaneous	$	14,990
Total Interest & Other	$	49,270
TOTAL REVENUES	$	10,388,492
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	$	407,010
Instruction	$	4,966,657
Special Education	$	428,390
Other School Services	$	1,025,479
Operations & Maintenance	$	708,089
Retirement Contribution	$	266,835
Employee insurance	$	1,672,822
Other insurance	$	26,019

Debt service	$	-
School Choice/Charter School Tuitions	$	720,379
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$	10,221,680
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	$	166,812

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Landers
Business Administrator

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The focus of the Hampshire Council of Governments continues to be to help local governments save money and solve problems through regional cooperation, and a commitment to the concept of local control over local affairs. The combined dues for the Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2008 were $37,206. All twelve Council members receive a 75% dues reduction because they voted to continue their membership with the Council for four years. The purpose of the reduction was to ease the financial burden to the municipalities while increasing the stability of the Council membership. The dues collected help support Council programs, services, and assistance to a variety of programs. It is the intent of the Council to increase revenues from a variety of sources to offset the reduced assessment.

In FY08, fifty towns and districts throughout the counties of Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden and, most recently, Berkshire were utilizing the Council's Electricity Program, Hampshire Power, for electricity supply for their municipal facilities. This

Program was also the electricity supplier for eleven businesses in Hampshire County. Hampshire Power continues to offer two rate plans. The Real Time Rate is the hourly market rate for each hour's usage during the meter cycle. An administrative charge is added to this rate. The Profit Share Rate is the actual utility price and customers who opt for this rate share in profits which the Council hopes to earn by buying directly from the electricity spot market. Although market prices in December 2007 and the Spring months of 2008 were very high; overall, both rate groups saved over utility rates. The Council is ready to extend into Worcester County in the coming year. The implementation of pilot residential services in Hampshire County as a stepping stone to supplying more residents through a municipal aggregation is another goal.

The Cooperative Purchasing program, now in its 28th year, coordinates and administers a formal bidding process on behalf of Council departments, municipalities, school districts, human service agencies, and miscellaneous governmental entities throughout the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire County region. Buying in bulk generates added savings over lone bidding efforts while complying with state procurement statutes and eliminating duplication of administrative work. The total purchasing volume for goods and services for Fiscal Year 2008 was $5.8 million with a projected savings of $926,643.

In a year when many towns are facing double-digit rate increases in health insurance premiums, our towns once again held their costs to single-digit increases. The Hampshire Councilors serve as the trustees of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, a cooperative effort to provide health and life insurance with excellent benefits at competitive rates. An Insurance Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions and to explore new ideas. The Trust manages a self-funded group of health insurance products. The Insurance Year 2008, April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008, collective premium for the Trust was $36M. Through the efforts and expertise of the Trust

management, the volume of participation in the program, and the participation of the town representatives on the Advisory Board, the Insurance Trust is successful at managing costs while providing excellent benefits.

The Regional Services Department develops regional approaches to problems shared by Hampshire County municipalities. Department personnel are primarily involved with sales, account analysis, and program development for Hampshire Power. In addition, the department continues to secure surplus federal equipment for various Massachusetts municipalities and state entities. The current net savings of property delivered to member communities for Fiscal Year 2008, after fees and delivery charges, totaled $10,252. Member communities receive a discount on the fees, as well as the right of first refusal on nicer pieces of equipment obtained through the surplus program. Regional Services continued its oversight of the Hampshire Inspection Program, which provides building inspection and zoning enforcement services. Emergency inspection services are also available for other towns not in the program for an hourly fee. Department personnel prepared two grant applications for the Town of Pelham, although results have not been announced yet. Finally, personnel prepared a wage and salary survey of Hampshire County municipalities.

The elected Councilors provide public oversight for Hampshire Care in Leeds, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility owned and operated by the Council and County since 1914. The facility provides for 120 patients, with over 250 admissions per year from all the towns in the County. The majority of patients are admitted for rehabilitative care following an accident or illness. Hampshire Care also provides post hospital treatment, and long-term nursing services. The facility has an exemplary record of performance on State and Federal surveys, and rates highest in the County on State Survey results. (See Massachusetts Department of Public Health "Nursing Home Report Card.") As a government owned, non-profit facility, Hampshire Care has no owners or stockholders to report to and concentrates all of its

resources on offering the best patient care possible. All revenues for the facility's operation come from patient services. Hampshire Care also has roughly the same profile of Medicare, Medicaid, and private patients as the average long-term care facility in Massachusetts. The Hampshire Council of Governments is very sensitive to its responsibilities as a government entity to provide services for the communities it serves. The Council would like to be able to expand the public services being offered on the campus of Hampshire Park, where Hampshire Care is located. Hampshire Care also provides a substantial number of good jobs, with 120 full-time equivalents and over 150 employees. These employees, as with the patients, almost all are residents of the surrounding towns and villages. The total financial impact on the local economy is about $8.5 million dollars. As a government entity Hampshire Care is challenged by the need to provide employees with better benefits than private sector facilities, while receiving lower reimbursement because of the high quality of patient care.

One of the less noted benefits to local communities is the impact that Hampshire Care has on the cost of retirement benefits. Retirement costs are based on total number of current employees, and benefits are paid only to employees who stay over ten years. Few of the nursing employees remain long enough to vest in the system so they can eventually collect benefits, yet Hampshire Care contributes based on the current number of employees. Costs for most communities are substantially lower because Hampshire Care is part of the Hampshire County Retirement System.

The Council has continued to provide tobacco prevention efforts in the region since 1994. Currently there are two programs run by the Tobacco Free Network. Through the Youth Access to Tobacco prevention program we are working in 33 towns in Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester Counties. These communities do not have local youth access to tobacco regulations or are not currently enforcing their regulations. By conducting compliance checks, providing retailer and community education, and working with local boards of health we hope to reduce the sale of tobacco to minors and

increase compliance with the state law. In addition, the Network has developed a smoke free apartment website, www.smokefree.hampshirecog.org, funded through a partnership with the Northeastern University's Public health Advocacy Institute. We are working to provide education and information to landlords in Western Mass about the health and legal consequences of allowing smoking in their apartments and the advantages of going smoke free. Finally, the Network is part of a four town wellness project where tobacco cessation is a key component of the program. This year we launched the Wellness Initiative, a worksite wellness program for the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust's nearly 70 worksites. We are surveying insurance subscribers to learn about their individual health needs and interests, providing education on specific health topics, sending a monthly newsletter to the units and individuals, conducting visibility events and launching wellness programs.

In addition to the various departments, programs, and services, each Councilor attends a monthly Full Board Meeting as well as a Standing Committee Meeting. Each Committee has oversight of specific departments and programs and continues to look for ways to increase revenue and provide services.

For further information on Council programs, expenses, and revenues, please contact the Councilors' Office at 413-584-1300 ext. 2. You may also visit the Council website at www.hampshirecog.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Hilltown Community Development Corporation was created to improve the quality of life for Hilltown residents by "addressing economic, educational, and social needs while preserving the rural character of our area." Its core service area includes the ten towns of Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. Hilltown CDC writes applications for and manages Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on behalf of seven Northern Hilltown communities to support a variety of programs described below. The CDC also manages and develops affordable housing serving low and moderate income residents in all ten core communities. And the CDC provides assistance to existing and start-up small businesses in 11 hilltowns (including Ashfield) to strengthen the hilltown economy, increase local jobs and support the marketing of locally produced goods and services. Below are the program highlights for FY 2008:

Social Services: Hilltown CDC seeks to support the highest possible quality of life for the most vulnerable hilltown residents. During FY 2008 HCDC programs:

- Delivered 6,656 hours of direct in-home caregiving services to 100 low-income Hilltown elder households through the **Hilltown Elder Network (HEN) Program,** at no cost to the participants, and provided 26,581 miles of escorted transportation to elders.
- Secured CDBG funding for three additional locally-based social service programs:

  The Health Outreach Program for Elders (HOPE), administered by Hilltown Community Health Centers (HCHC), provided over 1,000 hours of free in-home nursing care and podiatric services to nearly 200 eligible homebound elders.

  The Hilltown Food Pantry distributed over 70,000 pounds of foods (35 tons) to 277 eligible participants. The Pantry is administered by the

Northampton Survival Center at the Goshen Town Hall. Call 586-6564 or 268-7578 for information.

Families Together, another HCHC program, offers activities which focused on family issues such as parenting, family dynamics, and family health education to over 60 eligible hilltown households.

Economic Development: Hilltown CDC provides individual counseling, technical assistance and training workshops to small and micro-businesses on many subjects, from business planning to website design, computer software, and marketing. In FY 2008 Hilltown CDC:

- Published the 2008 Hilltown Business Directory, distributed to over 9,000 hilltown households, listing 266 hilltown businesses by town and by category;
- Organized the 2nd Hilltown Spring Festival at the Cummington Fairgrounds for nearly 1,000 hilltowners, including an Arts and Crafts Expo, a Business Expo, a Sustainability Expo, school group performances and local food and music;
- Held 56 training workshop sessions on 20 different subjects, from financial planning to website design. 194 local business people attended;
- Provided individual consulting assistance totaling 240 hours to 121 Hilltown businesses.

Affordable Housing: We actively pursue opportunities to preserve and create affordable housing to meet the needs low and moderate income Hilltown residents. Hilltown CDC owns and manages affordable rental housing, has renovated and constructed first time homebuyer housing and has planned and developed senior housing. FY08 project highlights include:

- **Laurel Road in Haydenville**: Construction and sale was completed on a $3 million cluster of 11 single family detached condo homes off Laurel Road in Haydenville. The passive solar homes incorporate rooftop photovoltaic solar panels to produce electricity, super-insulation and other green technologies. All of the homes are energy-star certified.

- **Huntington Rental Development**: Rehabilitation of a four-unit apartment building on Blandford Road in Huntington was completed and the apartments were made available for rent to income-eligible households. The project restores to active use a 100-year-old building in the village of Huntington that stood vacant for ten years.

First-time Homebuyer Program: Finding affordable homes continues to be a hurdle for area buyers. We offer three types of assistance to first-time homebuyers:

- **Individual Counseling** provided an opportunity for 47 households to discuss finances confidentially and prepare for the home buying process.
- **First-Time Homebuyer Workshops** provided 37 households with the certificates of completion needed to obtain subsidized mortgage products.
- **Direct Financial Assistance** provided grants and deferred payment loans to 9 income-eligible households buying a home in the Hilltown CDC service area.

Housing Rehabilitation Program: provides zero percent interest, deferred-payment loans to income eligible homeowners for use in making a wide variety of repairs to their homes, including roofs, septic systems, electrical, plumbing, and heating. In addition, the program provides a source of steady year round employment for area contractors. In FY 2008 HCDC:

- Rehabilitated 16 houses in the Towns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, and Williamsburg using deferred payment loans for home repairs and lead paint removal totaling $317,778.05.

Community Facilities: Hilltown CDC works with a wide range of community groups in the public and private sector and with local municipalities. The Community Facilities Program helps with the development process for construction of buildings and infrastructure by identifying project needs and obtaining project funding. It also helps communities make their facilities more handicapped accessible. In FY 2008 HCDC:

- Completed the procurement of a new ambulance for the Town of Plainfield.

- Completed replacement of roofs and windows at the Hillside Terrace senior housing facility in Cummington.
- Provided Project Management services to the Town of Chesterfield for replacement of the wood flooring at the Senior Center.
- Secured $38,084 in funding from the CDBG Program for the construction of a new Handicapped Accessible Bathroom at the Westhampton Town Hall.

Community Planning: We also work closely with municipalities and community groups in our service area to plan for, raise funds and/or manage a range of projects. During FY 2008 HCDC:

- Provided planning assistance to the Northern Hilltowns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington preparing and updating their Community Development Strategies. A number of new community needs were identified, along with projects to be included in future CDBG funding applications.
- Completed a Hilltown Affordable Housing Planning project which includes locating and studying potential sites for senior housing in Chesterfield and other communities.
- Completed a study to explore interest in developing a regional senior center.
- Continued to support and participate in regional efforts to bring high-speed broadband internet services to the unserved and underserved communities in the Hilltowns.

In FY 2008, Hilltown CDC generated over $5 million in revenues to support the above projects, including a $1.126 million regional CDBG grant, and recruited three new Board members: Pam Sanborn (Chester), Noreen Suriner (Middlefield), and Marj Snyder (Williamsburg).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Baker, Executive Director

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS	FY09	Proposed 10
Selectboard Chairman	1,325	1,350
Others	1,125	1,150
Board of Assessors Chairman	2,625	2,675
Others	2,375	2,425
Board of Health Each +$20/hr	425 & $20/hr	450 & $20/hr
Perc/TitleV	Perc/TitleV	Perc/TitleV
Town Clerk	6726	6894
Tax Collector	7,605 + fees	7,795 + feed
Treasurer	10,337	10,595
Auditor	275	300
Moderator	275	300
School Committee Chairman	305	330
Others	275	300
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer	10,337	10,595
Veterans Agent	1279	1,304
Administrative Assistant	14,750	14,898
Assessor Assistant	18/hour	$18.45/hr.
Assessor's Secretary	1575	1614
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	50	50
Building Inspector	6000	8,000
Wiring	30/inspection	30/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	20/inspection	20/inspection
Sanitation Inspector	25/inspection	25/inspection
Election Workers	7.50/hour	$7.50/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A	20.18	$20.68
Grade 1	19.18	19.65
Superintendent	51,277	52,559
LANDFILL Caretaker	10.25/hour	10.50/hour
LIBRARY Director	38,347	39,497
Staff Librarian	12.88/hour	13.26/hour
Custodian	10.25/hour	10.55/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian	10.50/hour	10.76/hour
POLICE CHIEF	19,437	19,923
Officers – Regular	12.50/hour	12.81/hour
Sergeant	14.50/hour	14.86/hour
Court	15.00/hour	15.37/hour
FIRE CHIEF	6,150	6,304
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	300	308
CEMETERY CARETAKER	5,081	5,208

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2010

ACCOUNT	VOTED F2009	PROPOSED F2010
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	8000	8000
Moderator	275	300
Selectboard Salary	3575	3650
Selectboard Expense	3600	3600
Administrative Assistant	14750	15119
Auditor Salary	275	300
Accounting Officer Salary	10337	10595
Accounting Office Expense	2101	2100
Audit (Article 10)		13000
Assessor Salary	7375	7525
Assessor Expense	8456	24125
Assessor Assistant	17000	13325
Assessor Secretary	1575	1614
Treasurer Salary	10337	10595
Treasurer Expense	4151	4150
Tax Collector Salary	7605	7795
Tax Collector Expense	9810	10278
Town Clerk Salary	6726	6894
Town Clerk Expense	3370	3000
Clerk, Board of Registrars	50	50
Conservation Commission	265	265
Zoning Board Expense	650	600
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	3700	3700
Highway Salaries	176000	180400
Highway Materials	62650	62650
Road Machinery	23686	23686
Road Machinery Fuel	35700	35700
Snow Removal	60000	100000
Road Machinery Buildings	24820	24820
Pickup	40000	
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 5)	1069945	1016300
HRHS Capital (Article 6)	80373	79125
Vocational Tuition (Article 8)	228505	231000
Vocational Transportation (Art. 9)	55350	40950
Elementary School (Article 7)	1185442	1252657
School Committee Salary	855	930
Library	67333	69572

VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	300	300
Veterans Agent Salary	1279	1311
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council	75	75
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	5081	5208
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Chief	19437	19923
Police Department	27691	29806
Fire Chief	6150	6304
Emergency Mgt Director	300	308
Fire Department	16144	16144
Safety Complex	15355	12275
Fire Rescue Truck (Article 11)		74000
Emergency Medical Services	7330	7330
Inspector Salary	12800	12800
Inspector Expense	1500	1450
Tree Warden Expense	2000	1500
Tree Warden Salary		500
Dog Officer	250	250
Animal Inspector	625	667
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop. (Art. 12)	4979	4730
Board of Health Salary	2775	2375
Board of Health Expense	71048	71279
Recycling Box	6000	
DEBT & INTEREST		
Int. Short Term Debt	713	
Short Term Debt	26000	
Long Term Debt	160000	115000
Interest Long Term Debt	60140	53700
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	59000	60000
Town Offices	13720	13720
Council on Aging	1200	1200
Historical	1200	1200
County Retirement	94303	102829
Council of Governments	2028	2028
Pioneer Valley Planning Council		221
Unemployment (Article 13)	13000	13000
Group Insurance	289000	297000
Medicare	18500	18000
Reserve Fund	5000	5000
TOTAL	4286086	4220103

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 9, 2009

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2010, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2010, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a rescue truck for the Fire Department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise,

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Town Bylaw by changing Article 4, Section 4-5-2 (c) to read "a Conservation Commission of five members for overlapping terms of three years, in accordance with Sect. 8C of M.G.L. Chap. 40", or take any other action in relation thereto.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 9th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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